PALL MALL GAZETTE

An Evening Newspaper and Review.

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TO-NIGHT'S ENTERTAINMENTS.

DRURY LANE.
(Augustus Harris, Lessee and Manager.)
TO-DAY, at 1.30 and 7.30, THE BABES IN THE WOOD. Messrs. Harry Nicholls, Herbert Campbell, C. Lauri, jun., Stevens, Leno, Griffiths Bros., Andrews, Inch, Pleon, Henderson, Stanley, Dezano, and Harry Payne; Mesdames Florence Dysart, Duggan, Mayer, ÆNEA, Grey, Charteris, Deering, and Harriet Vernon. Box-office open daily from 10 to 6.

HAYMARKET THEATRE.
(Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree.)
TO-NIGHT, at 8.30 precisely, the new original Drama, by Mr. Haddon Chambers, entitled "CAPTAIN SWIFT." Mr. Tree, Mr. Macklin, Mr. Kemble, Mr. Fuller Mellish, Mr. Allan, Mr. Harwood, Mr. Harrison, and Mr. Brookfield; Lady Monckton, Miss Rose Leclercq, Miss Cudmore, and Mrs. Tree. Preceded, at 7.50, by THE DUCHESS OF BAYSWATER AND CO. Doors open at 7.30. Box-office open daily, 10 till 5. MORNING PERFORMANCE SATURDAY NEXT, January 19, and Following SATURDAY, at 2.30
SPECIAL MATINEE of THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR, WEDNESDAY NEXT, January 23, at 2.30. Seats may now be booked.

LYCEUM THEATRE.
(Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry Irving.)
MACBETH, TO-NIGHT, at 7.45. Overture 7.40. Macbeth, Mr. Henry Irving; Lady Macbeth, Miss Ellen Terry. Messrs. Alexander, Wenman, Tyars, Webster, Howe, Haviland, Harvey, Johnson, Raynor, Outram, Lacy, Archer, &c.; Misses Marriott, Seaman, Desborough, Coleridge, Ivor, &c. Box-office (Mr. J. Hurst) open 10 to 5. Seats can also be booked by letter or telegram. Carriages 11.—LYCEUM.

TOOLE'S THEATRE.
THE DON. Mr. J. L. TOOLE. EVERY EVENING, at 8.30, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Merivale's successful Comedy, in Three Acts, THE DON. 222nd Time. EVERY SATURDAY, at 2.

SAVOY THEATRE.
(Proprietor and Manager, R. D'Oyly Carte.)
TO-NIGHT, at 8.15, the New and Original Opera, in Two Acts, by W. S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan, entitled THE YEOMEN OF THE GUARD; or, THE MERRYMAN AND HIS MAID. Preceded at 7.20 by MRS. JARRAMIE'S GENIE. Doors open at 7. MORNING PERFORMANCE EVERY SATURDAY, at 2.30. Doors open at 2. Box-office open continuously from 9 A.M. to 11 P.M.

ADELPHI THEATRE.
(A. and S. Gatti, Sole Proprietors and Managers.)
THIS EVENING, at 8.0, THE SILVER FALLS. Mr. William Terriss; Messrs. C. Cartwright, J. D. Beveridge, J. L. Shine, Royce Carleton, Bardley Turner, J. Carne, C. Eaton, James East, H. Russell; Mesdames Millward, O. Nethersole, G. Esmond, A. Dairolles, and Clara Jecks. At 7.15, Farce. MORNING PERFORMANCE SATURDAY NEXT, at 2.0.

VAUDEVILLE THEATRE.
(Mr. Thomas Thorne, Sole Lessee and Manager.)
THIS EVENING, at 8.50, THAT DOCTOR CUPID. At 7.50, THE POET. Mr. Thomas Thorne; Messrs. Cyril Maude, Scott Buist, Frank Gillmore, F. Grove, Pagden, J. Wheatman, and Fred Thorne; Misses Fanny Robertson, Dolores Drummond, Annie Irish, Marion Lea, Maunder, and Winifred Emery, &c.

GAIETY THEATRE.
THIS EVENING, at 7.30, FIRST MATE. At 8.30, FAUST UP TO DATE. Miss Florence St. John, Miss Violet Cameron, Miss Marie Illington, Miss Fanny Robina, Miss Jenny M'Nulty, Miss Lillian Price, Miss M. Jones, Miss F. Levey, Miss A. Young, Miss E. Greville, Miss M. Love; Mr. E. J. Lonnen, Mr. H. Parker, Mr. Charles Ross, Mr. E. Haslem, and Mr. George Stone.

TERRY'S THEATRE.
(Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Edward Terry.)
The safest Theatre in the world, constructed entirely with concrete and iron absolutely fireproof, lighted throughout by electricity.
TO-NIGHT, at 8.30. SWEET LAVENDER, by A. W. Pinero. 306th Time. Messrs. Edward Terry, Alfred Bishop, Brandon Thomas, F. Kerr, H. Reeves Smith, Sant Matthews, Prince Miller; Mesdames M. A. Victor, Carlotta Addison, Maude Millett, and Blanche Horlock. Doors open at 8. Carriages 11. MATINEE EVERY SATURDAY, at 2.30. Box-office open from 10 to 5. Telephone 2,702.—Acting Manager, Mr. H. T. Brickwell.

GLOBE THEATRE.
(Sole Lessee, Mr. Richard Mansfield.)
TO-NIGHT, at 8, SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER. Miss KATE VAUGHAN (specially engaged) as Miss HARDCASTLE, and Mr. LIONEL BROUGH as TONY LUMPKIN. Followed by the Monologue, HOW IT HAPPENED, in which Miss Vaughan will dance.
Mr. Mansfield is ordered by his physician to cease work for a time. Upon his return to this theatre SHAKESPEARE'S Tragedy, RICHARD III., will be played.

COURT THEATRE.
(Proprietors, Mrs. John Wood and Mr. Arthur Chudleigh.)
(Under the management of Mrs. John Wood.)
EVERY EVENING, at 9.0 (by arrangement with Mr. John Hare), LES SURPRISES DU DIVORCE, adapted by Sydney Grundy, and entitled MAMMA. 104th Performance. Preceded at 8 by BOX AND COX. Doors open 7.45. Box-office open 10 to 10. Telephone 3,051. EVERY AFTERNOON, at 2.30, LITTLE GOODY TWO SHOES. Special prices: Stalls, 7s. 6d.; dress circle, 5s.

PRINCE OF WALES' THEATRE.
(Lessee and Manager, Mr. Horace Sedger.)
TO-NIGHT at 8, PAUL JONES. Misses Agnes Huntington, Phyllis Broughton, Kate Cutler, St. Cyr, Jeannie Mills, and Miss Wadman; Messrs. Harry Monkhouse, Henry Ashley, Templer Saxe, Albert James, George Preston, and Frank Wyatt. MATINEE EVERY SATURDAY at 2.30.

LYRIC THEATRE.
(Sole Proprietor and Manager, Henry J. Leslie.)
TO-NIGHT, at 8.15, DOROTHY. 348th Performance. Mesdames Effie Chapuy, Florence Perry, H. Coveney, F. Neville, and Amy Augarde; Messrs. Ben Davies, Furneaux Cook, Arthur Williams, J. Le Hay, S. King, and C. Hayden Coffin. At 7.30, WARRANTED BURGLAR PROOF. MATINÉE EVERY SATURDAY at 2.30.

AVENUE THEATRE.
(Manager, Mr. H. Watkin.)
EVERY EVENING at 8.15, WEDNESDAYS and SATURDAYS at 2, NADGY. Mdlle. Vanoni, Mr. Arthur Roberts, and powerful company. Conducted by Mr. John Crook. Preceded in the evening at 7.30 by QUITS. Doors open at 7.15; Box-office open daily from 10 to 5 o'clock. Telephone 3,241. MORNING PERFORMANCES doors open 1.30. Children half price to Matinees.—R. D'Alkerson, Acting Manager.

CRYSTAL PALACE.
TO-DAY, at 3 and 7.30. Christmas Pantomime, CINDERELLA, under direction of Oscar Barrett. Messrs. Edward Righton, Clarence J. Hague, and John D'Auban; Mesdames Susie Vaughan, Emma D'Auban, Mary Righton, Kate Vito, Amy Liddon, and Edith Bruce.

HAMAN AND MORDECAI AT BERLIN.

When the cynical genius arises who will give the world a history of the littlenesses of great men, Prince Bismarck will figure almost as conspicuously in its pages as the first Napoleon. "He is a colossus," said a shrewd observer the other day, "and in nothing is he so colossal as in his littleness." Of this the indictment of Dr. Geffcken, published yesterday, is the latest illustration. It is a lamentable and humiliating revelation of the pettishness that can disfigure a great mind.

Ten years ago at a social meeting, in the unreserve of after-dinner, Dr. Geffcken, who was labouring under the influence of excitement, whether induced by the good Rhine wine or by a fierce polemic at the dinner-table, delivered himself of an extravagant diatribe against Prince Bismarck, saying in his wrath that "he had not "one single noble trait in his character, and was without a trace of "kindliness or pity." They were, but idle words uttered in the heat of the moment, but in accordance with the hateful system of espionage which has been established in Germany, they were at once reported to the Reptile Bureau at Berlin, where they were noted down against Dr. Geffcken in the *dossiers* which are kept of all the sayings and doings of those whose names are in the Black Book of Prince Bismarck. That great personage is as great in his rancour as he is in his statesmanship. In the Æneid every schoolboy marvels at the disproportion between the long catalogue of catastrophes that overwhelmed the Trojans and the trivial nature of the slight which let loose the wrath of offended Juno. When the schoolboy grows up he sees that in this the poet was true to life when he made

Judicium Paridis, sprætæque injuria formæ

the sufficient cause for all the woes which fell on Troy. Of this we need no further proof than is afforded by the Geffcken correspondence. Here is Prince Bismarck, our European Juno, showing himself as implacable in his wrath as the Queen of Heaven who was offended by the judgment of a mortal who, after all, may have been no authority on comparative female beauty. How strange it is, and yet how human! Here is the lord and master of the Continent, who for eighteen years had been the dictator of Europe, fuming and fretting all these years because an insignificant professor in Northern Germany uttered some disparaging words after dinner in the abandon of a friendly gathering. Could anything be more unworthy the position of the Great Chancellor, or more alien to the magnanimity of a noble mind? It reminds us of Haman in the Book of Esther. Haman was the Grand Vizier of Ahasuerus the King. He had everything mortal could desire; but when he saw Mordecai in the King's gate, that he stood not up nor moved for him, he was full of indignation against Mordecai. So he sent for his friends and for his wife and "Haman told them of the glory of his "riches and the multitude of his children and all the things "wherein the King had promoted him, and how he had advanced "him above the princes and servants of the king. Yet all this "availeth me nothing, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting "at the King's gate." We all know how that ended. Haman was himself hanged on the gallows which he had prepared for Mordecai. As it was in ancient Shushan so it is in modern Berlin. The German Haman sought to gibbet his Mordecai by the publication of the Acte d'Accusation, but the only result of the attempt has been to justify Dr. Geffcken in the eyes of the world and excuse even the violence of the dictum which lies at the root of the whole prosecution, that Bismarck was without "a "noble trait in his character, and was without a trace of kindliness "or pity."

We admire the German Chancellor immensely. He is the first statesman of our time. He created Germany, and for eighteen years Europe has enjoyed peace under his sway. But the very sincerity of our admiration intensifies the regret with which we note this petty malignity, this rancorous revenge on the part of so illustrious a man. When he accuses Dr. Geffcken of "being a very conceited, ambitious person, deeming himself cut out to play a great political rôle, and bitten with mortification at the non-recognition of his merits," we marvel that one who has none of Dr. Geffcken's excuses for bitterness should nevertheless show himself even more "bitten with mortification at the non-recognition of his merits" than Dr. Geffcken himself. What does it matter to a man who has triumphed everywhere and before whom Germany lies lost in prostrate admiration that a stray professor here and there should vent a sarcasm at his expense? As for the accusation that Dr. Geffcken is an enemy of the Empire and a conspirator against the Chancellor, that is simply monstrous. Even the German Imperial Court dismissed the charge, but here is Prince Bismarck of all men in the world appealing from the decision of the Imperial judges to the public opinion of the world! He could hardly have appealed to a less sympathetic tribunal. Prince Bismarck for once has made a fool of himself before Europe, and he has done so because he has forgotten that anger is a bad counsellor, and that there is nothing which makes a great man so contemptible in the eyes of his fellows as a morbid sensitiveness to a personal slight.

*A STORY OF DIVORCE MADE EASY.**

The Book Mr. Gladstone Reviews for the "Nineteenth."

This book, originally published in America under the name of "Divorce," will probably have a wide circulation now that it has been brought within easy reach of English readers. Dealing with the question "Is Marriage a Failure?"—a question latterly much discussed in some of our periodicals and newspapers—it is likely to attract attention and interest, specially as it is the outcome of a system of marriage laws differing widely from our own. The story is too much spun out perhaps for our rapid nineteenth century habits, its length is a little out of proportion to its incident, it occasionally has allusions which are not adequately followed up, and starts the reader along paths which do not seem to lead anywhere in particular; after careful and patient preparation, the crisis finally comes too suddenly and without quite sufficient *raison d'être*. These are obvious criticisms. But the narrative, ordinary and commonplace as are its materials, is by no means ordinary or commonplace in its telling. There is a directness and simplicity and truthfulness in the style, a total absence of self-consciousness or search after effect, that gives it an unquestioned reality and life-likeness, appealing as nothing else can to the human heart. In every page of this book there is a "touch of nature which makes the whole world kin." The character of Constance, the heroine of the book, is finely and pathetically drawn. The absolute trustfulness and transparent purity of her nature, the straight course she steers through the Romola-like waves of her married life, the dauntless courage which is borne of her love, are in the highest degree impressive and stimulating. Goodness, so called, is in many novels of our own day only another word for dulness. The authoress of "Faithful and Unfaithful" has succeeded (a rare feat) in enlisting the sympathies of her readers on the side of goodness and innocence.

Constance Morgan, who inherits the diamond cross as "the purest among the children and the grandchildren," is the daughter of a respectable couple, who through an unexpected rise "in dry goods" find themselves aristocratically residing in a fine house in Fifth Avenue. The story opens with a family discussion on the prospects of her approaching marriage with Gilbert Travers. How much light is thrown by the surmises of her relatives, or what is to follow, we leave our readers to discover. Those who expect any startling or extraordinary development will be disappointed, but in the lively, frivolous seaside life of fashion and flirtation at Longbranch there is plenty of variety and interest; Cora Leavitt is the best drawn of the minor actors in this drama; her sharp and incisive observations and criticisms of life and character are full of point and penetration, and under her levity and sarcasm is hidden a great deal of shrewd common sense as well as a heart of gold. The easy-going, pleasure-loving Gilbert cannot fail to remind us of Tito Melema. His grace and charm of manner and general attractiveness veil the selfishness which gradually expands into treachery, and finally blight and wreck the love and life that have so freely given themselves to him.

The following scene is the most characteristic in the book. It describes how Gilbert Travers, after having been surprised in the morning by his wife at Mrs. Whiting's house, comes home at night and proposes

* "Faithful and Unfaithful." By Margaret Lee. (Macmillan and Co.)

THE BANJO AND THE PEOPLE WHO PLAY IT.

A Few Minutes' Chat with Mr. Ernest Groome.

"Have you heard that?" asked a musical friend of mine the other afternoon as I was gazing into the shop window of Mr. Hays, in New Bond-street. "Good business," he continued; "one of the young Princes has gone in for the banjo." My roving eye then caught Mr. Ernest Groome's paper signboard dangling right in front of my nose, with a beautiful portrait, surrounded by a host of banjos and guitars and zithers and all manner of strange musical tools. "Mr. Groome in?" I asked. "Here I am, sir. Want a lesson?" "Well, no, not to-day, thank you; but I venture to ask you for a little information concerning this banjo fever which I understand has erupted in the sacred Sandringham. Will you mention any names of distinguished pupils?" "Well, I have taught Miss Ellen Terry——" "Indeed! A few bars from Lady Macbeth on the banjo would indeed be worth hearing. Well, was she an apt pupil?" "Yes. Yes; a charming, agreeable, fascinating pupil, with a wonderfully delicate touch, and a marvellously quick ear——" "And, excuse the interruption, is she proficient?" "Well, the calls upon her time are so many and so pressing that I can scarcely call her a '*scientific*' performer, but she soon learned to play an accompaniment. By the way, I had a letter from Miss Terry not long ago, according me permission to mention her name.

The Banjo in the Desert.

"Any one else, Mr. Groome?" "Well, Mr. Terriss is a very clever banjoist. Have you ever heard of Major Brocklehurst? I don't think I am doing wrong in saying that he is also an adept on the banjo. You know that he was Gordon's aide-de-camp and friend for a long time. Well, I believe he took his banjo with him, and often played to the hero of Khartoum."

The Clever German Actor.

"How long does it take to learn this popular instrument?" "In half a dozen lessons, I dare say, I could teach you, if you are persevering and have an ear for music, to play any accompaniments that you would ever want. Of course the rest depends very much on yourself. Some two years ago a well-known German actor sent for me (no, not Bandmann) to the

A HAPPY FAMILY: OR, DOMESTIC BLISS AND THE BANJO.

First Avenue Hotel, and engaged my services for an evening to play the banjo. He learned the scales, diatonic and chromatic, and major and minor chords for four different keys, and a pretty little fandango, introducing 'harmonics,' in two hours, and told me that he was going to use the instrument in a new play in which he was to create the part of a wandering demented minstrel *à la* 'Rameau.' There was an instance of rapidity."

An Experience of an American Lady.

"Again, a young American lady whom I was teaching saw at a garden party a banjo 'trick' player—that is, using a small light instrument, throwing it up in the air, swinging backwards and forwards, and playing with one hand while waving the banjo about. When I arrived the next morning my pupil was in bed with a broken head, having tried the same business with a heavy banjo, which, on throwing into the air, promptly came down on her head, knocked her senseless, and got pretty well 'broke up.'"

Banjo Bands.

"There are many banjo bands now formed by ladies and gentlemen, and they include guitars and mandolins, many of the players being remarkably proficient." Then Mr. Groome bolted, for he is a busy, busy man, and left me to reflect upon the possibilities of the banjo. Some of the prettiest and quaintest banjo melodies I ever heard were written and composed by Mr. Brandon Thomas, now of Mr. Terry's Theatre, in the Strand, which he still sings, I dare say, to the tinkling banjo-like pianoforte accompaniment, which is irresistible. Take a verse from that charming little nigger song known as "Sing along, Sambo" which most Bohemians have heard.

Our artist suggests that all marriageable young ladies and gentlemen should learn the fashionable instrument in order to minimize the awkwardness of proposal. Thus, young gentleman: "I lub a lubly gal, I do"—a few bars very soft and tender. She replies, with head down and cheeks a damask rose: "Sing along, sing along, Sambo." Even the gayest young man sometimes comes to grief. If he has learned the banjo this is still left.

"THIS IS STILL LEFT."

to his wife that they should separate. By reprinting these pages a better idea of the drift of the book will be obtained than by any amount of disquisition :—

"If," said Gilbert, "I told you that I had ceased to love you, and had found Mrs. Whiting to be the very woman whose temperament and ideas suited mine, you would scoff at the declaration."

"I should say that you had never loved me, and were utterly incapable of loving anybody—except yourself."

"Then you would be exactly right; in fact you are so. I accept your summing-up of my character. You have studied me to some account. It will be easy now to say what I have on my mind. I want you to agree to a separation, perhaps a divorce."

Constance sprang to her feet, her eyes flashing.

"Gilbert!"

He motioned her from him, eyeing her coldly.

"No emotion, I beg of you." . . .

"Consider all the facts; look at the case as it stands. You shiver at the sound of the word 'separate.' For God's sake, could we be any more separated than we are—than we have been for two years?"

"Whose fault is that, Gilbert?"

"Mine, you will say, because you love me. I can do as I will with you; but in reality, it is the fault of our natures—our temperaments. You are too good for me. We haven't an idea, an inclination, or a passion in common. I'm sick and tired of seeming to live up to a standard that is entirely beyond my reach and my desire. We make each other miserable! I can't pull you down, and for ten years you have been exhausting yourself in vain efforts to raise me to your level. The thing must end! As you say, 'I love myself;' still I'm not so hardened as not to feel very much ashamed of worrying you with my differences in every way. But the sooner this hypocrisy is over the better for both of us. I've been paving the way to it for some time. Your brothers can easily get you a divorce. I have wasted your money; I do not support you; they can add any other charges they please; I will not put in any defence. They will take care of you and your children, which is more than I can do; they offered that, and no doubt they meant me to take the hint and withdraw. It is the best thing, and the only thing to do."

"So then you believe in breaking solemn vows?"

"I do, when it is impossible to keep them. Divorce is as old as Moses. Milton believed in it. I could quote——"

"Oh, don't go beyond ourselves to discuss the question. Divorce for us is the thing to consider; we live under other laws, in different surroundings. I don't care what Milton thought, we are quite capable of thinking for ourselves. You must look at my side as well as your own, Gilbert, and then you must consider the children's——"

"I want you to set us both free."

"And if I refuse——"

"You will force me into extreme measures. I tell you I have already given you sufficient cause. Do the thing quietly, and there need be no scandal."

Constance stood up, looking steadily at her husband, as he came toward her in his monotonous walk. His eyes were wicked, a dull-reddish light burned in them. He would have passed her—but she put her hand on his arm, and spoke firmly:

"Gilbert, this is all wrong. You cannot mean what you say. I will not believe you——"

"I do mean it! See here—if you will madden me—" He caught her arm in his powerful grasp and hissed the words into her ear. "Do you want me to come home drunk to you? I can if you insist upon having it so. Do you want me to beat you—to make a public show of ourselves—I tell you, you shall do as I want you to! You shall!"

"I will not." The cool decision in her voice and eyes made him lose all control of himself. He muttered an oath and suddenly raised his arm, but instead of shrinking from him, Constance threw herself on his breast and clung to him. Her touch made him tremble.

"Don't—don't disgrace yourself," she whispered. "It would do no good—no good. You have hurt me already more than blows could! You cannot force me into doing wrong by ill-usage. I will neither consent to divorce, nor get a divorce from you. As long as I live I shall be your wife and the honest mother of my children! Gilbert, let us forget all these troubles. If I have offended you, forgive me—I remember nothing against you. Every night, when I say my prayers—I forgive you—I feel sorry for any ill feeling that I may have had about you through the day. Is love valueless? Who in all the world cares for you as I do—for your honour, your happiness!"

"No one, no one! but your love, I tell you, is thrown away! I don't want it—I don't need it."

"You are under some wicked influence, Gilbert. You cannot put me from you! You do need me—you are forgetting your vows—your duties. You dare not do such a thing as you propose!"

"You do not know me," he said coldly. His arms hung at his sides, he looked down at her almost contemptuously. "I gave you credit for possessing some pride. You can't frighten me with old exploded theories of marriage vows and duties. I've tried all your guides to happiness—they may satisfy women—women with unlimited powers of credulity, but you cannot impose them upon sensible men. All this religious nonsense that you find so much comfort in is to me a mere farce, got up to supply women with an object in life, and keep them out of mischief. It has answered the purpose very well, but it is getting out of date. Education is freeing women from bondage as well as men. Expediency is the new morality. You and I have tried marriage for ten years, and it is a dead failure. Now let us seek some better method. We ought to enjoy life. It is too short to spend in a round of hard duties that yield no pleasures. Take my advice and follow my example. There are men who can appreciate women like you."

"Gilbert, are you mad?" He shrank before her eyes.

"I think I am very honest with you, and sensible. You can chain me here if you like; but claiming the letter of a thing, when the spirit is wanting, is not very satisfactory. I thought you had about enough of it."

"I must save you from yourself," she said passionately. "I must, I must! I can bear anything but that—I have borne so much. But to see you fall! Oh, Gilbert! I could not bear that! Tell me what to say that will touch you! I cannot argue—besides you know better than I do what I would say. Gilbert, when you took me from my father you promised to take care of me while life lasted."

"I cannot do it," he said impatiently.

"But I am your wife—there is something in the tie that unites us, that you and I cannot break—I know it, I feel it. It would be the same—even if we had no children. If we separate, I shall always believe myself to be your wife in God's sight—always believe that you belong to me—no separation can divide us. The idea is shocking, terrible to me!"

He took her arms from around his neck and put her in a chair, then he resumed his monotonous walk. Constance watched his face. His anger was over—he was as cold and hard as marble.

"You are a very strange woman," he said, after some time. "I cannot get rid of you unless I kill your love—and that seems to be impossible."

"And if you did—still I should have my duty to consider—I cannot forget that; neither can I shut my eyes to what I owe my children. . . . If I have failed in my duty, tell me how? I am ready and willing to please you and serve you in every honourable way. If I have lived up to my vows, I claim that you should do the same. Modern thinkers insist upon the practice of pure morality as a sign of progress. If your strength lies in yourself, this is a test of its powers. Control the evil passion, and do what is consistent with your creed."

"I don't think we are living morally now—I don't fulfil one of my duties, and you affect a happiness that you do not feel. Each makes a hypocrite of the other."

"You are wrong," she said bitterly. "Marriage is exactly what I understood it to be when I promised to live with you until Death parted us. If you could leave me as you took me, it might be a contract, as you call it. But life is completely changed for me—I have children—they are yours—we brought them into the world. You cannot forsake them, you cannot leave all the care and responsibility to me. You must share it!"

"Practically I do not, I never did. It is a chimera of the brain. If I were dead you would have to do what I ask of you now. Without me you and they will be better off, much better off."

"It seems to me that the men who murdered their wives when they grew tired of them were merciful compared with you——"

"Oh, pshaw! This is the nineteenth century. We stand equal now, and individual. If you wanted to be free you could get rid of me easily. The law knows no difference between men and women. There are modern remedies for the troubles that afflict human nature."

"But human nature has not changed——"

"Certainly not in your case. You talk like a woman of the feudal ages. You are willing to be the slave of a man who has ceased to love you. You can bear anything but separation."

"It is true that I love you—that I cannot prevent myself hoping for you. But it is terrible to see human nature in ruins! I cannot believe that you are as utterly bad as you are representing yourself. Gilbert, you cannot have lost all feeling for me."

She stood up and put her hands on his, but she might as well have caressed a granite figure. Then her brain felt on fire—she found herself walking rapidly to and fro through the rooms—out in the hall—trying to open the street door. It was locked and bolted, her hands trembled on it.

"Where are you going?" Mr. Travers put his hand on the door.

"Anywhere! Let me go—please—let me go away!"

He started at the agony in her face when she raised it to his.

"Not by yourself—if you want to walk I will go with you."

"No, no! alone. I want to be alone," she murmured despairingly.

"I can't let you go alone," he said, decidedly, taking her hands off the door. Then she moaned, staggered, and knew nothing.

Like Miss Austen and Mrs. Gaskell, Margaret Lee is content to draw everyday life as she sees it. She bestows on her work a minute carefulness of detail which would be no discredit to either of these eminent novelists. Under a sterner system of marriage laws, it is possible that the germ of good underlying the character of Gilbert might have had more chance of development in the sunny atmosphere of his wife's devotion. Perhaps those who long for greater freedom in the marriage contract and who in "Divorce made Easy" see a panacea for married miseries, may learn from this story to doubt whether the remedy after all lies in laws and statutes. People may talk and write for ever, and argue themselves into believing anything, but as long as they persist in fastening on to "effect" the wrong "cause" they will not throw much light on the question. For if there is one thing in this world that is unquestionable it is that in proportion to the shirking of personal responsibility, the sum of human sin and sorrow will be increased. What we need is not a loophole of escape from duty, not a greater facility for getting rid of binding vows, undertaken though they may be in the rash impetuosity of youth and under the influence of momentary passion. What we need is not the weakening but the strengthening of personal responsibility, the heightening of moral purpose, the power of distinguishing earthly passion from the passion of love, the disciplined training of life for the married state as for a profession. "When," it was once asked, "should a man's education begin?" "Twenty years before he is born," was the answer. This, then, is what we have to fit ourselves for—the education and edification of the coming generation. This was the first cause "for which matrimony was ordained"—the earlier and the more resolutely we lay to heart its duties and responsibilities as well as its passionate joys, the more we remember it is for "worse" as well as for "better" that we promise "to have and to hold, to love and to cherish," the more shall you be braced to endure the first disappointment or disagreement, and the less shall we ask the question, "Is Marriage a Failure?" M. D.

OCCASIONAL NOTES.

We ought to win Govan to-morrow. There is a fear in the Unionist ranks of something of the kind. Large employers of labour are exerting tremendous pressure upon their men to vote for Sir John Pender. The foremen are instructed to "get at" them. But the men are resolute, and will probably teach us an object lesson in political independence. The Stuart-Wortley episode has provoked reaction in the dockyard boroughs, where the Government is losing ground. Govan, in any case, will be an important election, and far more so than either Maidstone or Colchester. If it goes right, as we expect it will, the Government will be greatly shaken.

The Emperor of Russia in his New Year's reply to the congratulations of Moscow, sounds the same hopeful note which has led some people to say that the railway accident at Borki was the greatest blessing in disguise that has visited Russia during this reign. He says:—

> God has willed that in the horror felt at the destruction with which we were threatened, and in the joy at our escape, the people should have manifested before us and the whole world those sentiments of unbounded love and devotion which constitute the strength of Russia.

He therefore enters the New Year with "renewed faith in the controlling power of Divine Providence," which is just the best thing in the whole world for him as for all of us. For faith is the sum and the source of all good, just as unbelief is the secret spring of all evil.

For many years the *Daily Telegraph* held a brief against Russia, and did all that paper could do to lash the British public into passionate hatred of the Tzar and his people. It is therefore with peculiar pleasure that we read in its leader to-day that—

> The relations between Russia and England under Lord Salisbury's statesmanlike management are as friendly as possible. . . . Nor has it escaped notice and appreciation in England that the treatment by the Russian official press of the Morier affair showed a candour, good feeling, and friendly courtesy to Queen Victoria's Ambassador as conspicuous as the language used by the German journals was too commonly the opposite. It will seem strange that friendly sentiments on this side have so speedily supervened; but the fact is undoubted, and much of the change must, we imagine, be placed to the credit of the confidence which the Tzar has begun to inspire.

In other words, Englishmen, like the editor of the *Daily Telegraph*, are beginning to discover somewhat tardily how entirely mistaken they were in their estimate of the character of Alexander III.

Although we believe that there is no truth in the story that Mr. Gladstone intends to take up the question of divorce, he has actually sent a review of the American novel "Faithful and Unfaithful" to the *Nineteenth Century*, and he will no doubt be deeply interested in a volume that will appear at Washington at the end of this month. The Commissioner of Labour will then present to Congress his elaborate Report on marriage and divorce in the United States, with a chapter relating to Europe. We shall then have an authoritative and accurate account of both marriage and divorce laws in every particular covered by the statutes of all the States in the Union. On the whole, Mr. Gladstone had, perhaps, better hold over his article till he has had an opportunity of studying this Report

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Mr. Stanley's letter to Tippoo Tib settles the question as to whether Emin had come down with him to "Boma of Banalia." Emin has not budged. He is on the Nyanza, and will wait Mr. Stanley's return. The road seems to be clear. Mr. Stanley was to leave on the return journey on the 28th of August, and then he was going on "slowly." As he covered the ground in eighty-two days coming down, he ought to have reached Emin by the end of November as the latest. There is one curious passage in Mr. Stanley's letter. Speaking of Emin's soldiers, he says:—

> They blessed our black men for their kindness in coming so far to show them the way, and many of them were ready to follow me at once out of the country. But I asked them to stay quiet a few months, &c.

Emin's soldiers, therefore, have about had enough of it.

Answers and letters from a few candidates reached us too late to be included in our County Council lists yesterday. These we may now briefly summarize. Mr. Milbourne (North-east Bethnal-green) answers "Yes" to all our questions except to the crucial one about the police, upon which he is silent. Mr. W. R. Smith (Holborn) sends a copy of his address, which deals chiefly with sanitary matters, but begs to be excused from answering our questions. Mr. H. R. Taylor (East Islington is standing with Miss Varley on the Social Democratic platform, and his answers agree with hers. Mr. Alfred Davies (North Hackney) is opposing "the old gang," and was included in our list of selected candidates. Finally, Mr. Pelham the well-known rector of Lambeth, answers most of the non-political questions in the affirmative. He is in favour of continuing the coal and wine dues. Mr. Pelham's good work in Lambeth needs no commendation, and personally he is an admirable candidate. But is it probable that a hard-working rector would have sufficient time to devote to the duties of County Councillor?

There was an error of transcription in our list yesterday under questions 5 and 6, dealing with the supply of gas and water. The candidate who was against purchase by the County Council was not Mr. Barrett Hopkins (West Newington), but Mr. Blott (Holborn). It is the clear opinion of Mr. Hopkins that the people of London should have the control of their own watering and lighting, and he has plainly said so in his address and in his speeches. Under the same questions, there was a misprint of No. "267" for No. "157." Mr. Coppen (Westminster), the candidate indicated by the latter number, thinks the present arrangements with the gas companies satisfactory.

Mr. Pelham makes some excellent remarks on the equalization of the poor rate, which we have much pleasure in publishing :—

> I don't agree with Mr. Branch and Mr. Charles Harrison, who state that the present state of the rating is owing to the retention of the old ecclesiastical unit of the parish for rating purposes. It is surely rather the refusing, in the case of London, to combine these units into one union, or into several large different unions. The present state of London is exactly the state of country parishes in Northamptonshire and other Midland counties before the Union Chargeability Act of 1865. What has been done in Kensington and St. George's, Hanover-square, by the force of fashion and the demand for large houses, was done wilfully by the landlords—quoted by Mr. Charles Villiers in his speech moving the second reading of the Union Chargeability Act of 1865—by pulling down cottages in their villages, and using the labour of neighbouring parishes, and so getting rid of the incidence of the poor rate. It is because London contravenes the custom of the rest of the country that I advocate the change as a non-political act for the new Council to aim at. I hope also the new Council will aim at improving in every way the homes of the poor, by insisting upon the vestries or the district boards carrying out to the full all the sanitary Acts.

A DESPONDING VIEW OF THE WOMAN VOTER.

BY A BAFFLED CANVASSER.

THE women householders of London find themselves to-day in an important position. For the first time in their lives they find themselves on a level with their provincial sisters in respect to municipal privileges. The female ratepayers of country towns have the advantage of their London sisters in having enjoyed already some years of training in the exercise of these privileges; the theory of politicians apparently being that the woman whose opinion was not worth taking on, say, the Irish Question, would yet be an oracle on the Utilization of Sewage and the Distribution of Gas. The result of the experiment is admitted to be highly encouraging for the advocates of the larger Women's Suffrage. In London, however, where the utter apathy and ignorance of the male burgess as to his new privileges is as yet the most striking feature of the election, it is scarcely a matter of surprise that the female voter is not all that could be wished by those who, now that she is a ruling "factor," have set themselves to woo her support. One of these—a canvasser among the women-voters of a poor division—gives the following record of the rebuffs which have chilled his first enthusiasm. It deserves publication, though the lesson which it teaches is scarcely the conclusion to which the victim has jumped :—

The women-voters of my district (writes a canvasser) are divided into three classes—those who do not know what you mean, those who do not care to know what you mean, and those who think they know what you mean. And it is difficult to say which class is the most disheartening and exasperating to the enthusiastic politician. Take the first class—those who do not know what you mean.

This is a very large and thriving class, differing indefinitely both in degrees and forms of ignorance. Some of them take you for the rent-collector, and meet you with reproaches and protests for your ill-timed advent, or do not meet you at all, but spy you from an upper window while you hammer in vain at the knocker. Others says with a naïveté that is not at all charming, "Is it a coal-ticket?" and on discovering the mistake vituperate you with a vigour familiar enough in the political arena, but which you wonder how they learnt outside it. Some of them, however, are quite meek and mild. With a provoking humility they reply, in effect, "No, thank you, sir; I do not want a vote to day." These excellent souls are often struggling women, who think that you are trying to pauperize them in some insidious way. If that is not annoying to a well-intentioned canvasser, what is? Then there is the woman who, after you have carefully explained to her her duties, mildly remarks, 'Allright, sir; I'll send my boy round with the vote on the day," or offers to vote there and then on the card you bring her humbly soliciting your vote and interest. Equally provoking is the amiable lady who "Won't know what it's all about," but is going to vote for the other side because they called first. Your only hope is that she has in all probability forgotten the names of the rival candidates and may vote for yours in mistake. And so debasing is the work of canvassing that you will probably direct your whole energies to the work of spreading confusion in the poor woman's mind. But these women have their consoling counterpart in those others who vote for your candidates because *you* call first. In these cases you have a vivid sense of the similarity of elections to games of chance. But the last form of ignorance is the most frequent of all. It expresses itself in the stolid answer, "I knows nothing about it. I'll ask my son." Once I thought I had fairly persuaded a good woman to vote for my candidates, when a gruff voice was heard from above stairs saying, "Don't you vote for them," and my appeals were vain from that time forward. Once a male lodger came out explained to me with charming simplicity that he had not got a vote, but that that did not matter, as his landlady "just votes as I tells 'er."

The second class—who do not care what you mean—are far less complex. They consist mainly of ladies engaged in washing or cleaning, who open the door with soapy hands and red faces, and on your explaining your mission reply with cutting contempt—"Wotes. I've no time to attend to them sort of things." Their whole attitude towards municipal politics is distressing in the extreme to any one inclined to believe in women's suffrage. They evidently view them as a sort of game "for men only," which it is part of the privilege of widowhood to rise superior to. They regard you with a sort of pitying amusement as one who must have despaired of all other means of employment before he took to his present one.

But I think that the last class of women-voters—those who think they know what you mean—are the most provoking of all. Whether out of politeness or pure curiosity the women of this class lead you on into conversation, and listen in deferential silence and with apparent comprehension to some stock discourse of yours—about rates or what not—until your belief in women's suffrage slowly revives, and you begin to believe that women are not so politically incapable after all. And then, just when you are saying to yourself, "What an intelligent woman!" she breaks in with some such remark as, "I'll be sure to come! It's the School Board, isn't it?" Down goes your reviving belief in the sex with no less abruptness than that factory at Reading when it was touched by the cyclone: you give up argument and fall back on instructions. For the rest of the afternoon you content yourself with simply telling the "intelligent woman-voter" for whom to vote with what male authority you can command. And it is only in the rare cases when you come across a woman who resents this mode of treatment that your hopes revive. In that case, their language—which is sometimes strong—is really quite refreshing.

Our canvasser concludes by drawing a moral unfavourable to women's suffrage. If he will extend his canvass to the male burgesses, he will probably realize (1) the necessity for the educational process of enfranchisement in both cases, (2) the fact that a fairly keen and intelligent political elector may neither know nor care a straw about municipal issues.

A BATCH OF PHONOGRAMS.

IT might be interesting to your readers to know the history of that phonographic message (or phon-autograph) of "Gladstone to Edison" which, "through Reuter's Agency," has just been flashed over the world. Be it remembered, by the way, the world has only *read* the message; but Edison, in his laboratory across the Atlantic, has heard it *spoken*, in the living voice of Gladstone! Just before Mr. Gladstone started for Italy he was the chief guest at a dinner party given by the universal Mr. Knowles, of the *Nineteenth Century*, at which there were present also Lord Aberdeen, Lord Meath, Lord Rowton, Sir Morell Mackenzie, Sir William Hunter, Sir John Fowler, Colonel Gouraud, and others. Mr. Gladstone, in conversation with Colonel Gouraud before dinner, said he had read a great deal about the phonograph, but that "the more he read the less he understood." Colonel Gouraud replied that, with Mr. Knowles's leave, Mr. Gladstone should understand all about the phonograph before the evening was over. He therefore despatched a telegram to have the instrument fetched up from his house in Norwood, and an hour later the phonograph arrived. Colonel Gouraud made it talk, sing, whistle, and play the piano; and Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Knowles and all his guests were so delighted that they expressed themselves anxious to have some token of their admiration conveyed to Edison. "Nothing simpler!" said Colonel Gouraud, and he proposed that each of the gentlemen present should send his greeting, through the phonograph, to its inventor. This was unanimously agreed to, and Colonel Gouraud led the way. Taking up the speaking tube, he addressed Edison by name, gave him a word-picture of the scene, and introduced the host, Mr. Knowles. The pith of Mr. Knowles's message was: "You have turned one of the corners of the nineteenth century, and one of the corners of the world." He then introduced Mr. Gladstone, whose brief, characteristic greeting we have all read by this time. The Earl of Aberdeen followed, who said: "The phonograph shall flourish, *ruat cælum!*" When Lord Rowton was introduced, Colonel Gouraud seized the tube a moment, and said: "In the voice of Lord Rowton, my dear Edison, you may think, if you please, that you are listening to the shade of Lord Beaconsfield." Lord Rowton, acting on this cue, said, "Dear Mr. Edison, the words of Colonel Gouraud make me deeply regret that he whose honoured name"—("Hear," from Mr. Gladstone)—"he has mentioned is not here to-night to share with Mr. Gladstone the astonishment and admiration which your grand work has excited in all our minds.—I am, yours very faithfully, Rowton." In presenting Sir John Fowler, Mr. Knowles said, "His amazing work on the Forth Bridge, Mr. Edison, is the only rival of your marvellous invention which offers itself to my mind." Each distinguished guest in turn addressed some appropriate words to the Wizard of Menlo Park; and Mr. Gladstone, in saying his good night, assured Colonel Gouraud that the evening had been one of the most interesting he had ever spent. Does anybody know of the felicitous message which, a few days before Mr. Knowles's dinner-party, the Speaker of the House of Commons addressed by phonograph to Mr. Edison? The occasion was a soirée at the Speaker's house, at which Colonel Gouraud and the phonograph were present, along with many M.P.'s, May I give the Speaker's words in full? "Mr. Edison," he said, "I have heard many speeches in my time, of various lengths and different merits, but I have never before this moment heard a speech from a wax cylinder. Colonel Gouraud has been kind enough to explain this wonderful instrument to a large company here assembled, and I venture in my own name, on behalf of the House of Commons, and on behalf of many friends who are present here to-night, to send across the Atlantic our congratulations to you on your wonderful discovery, and to wish for it the results which we all anticipate in the course of time will follow from it. I should also like to send across the Atlantic two words which are familiar to me as Speaker of the House of Commons, and which are familiar to many members of the House who are now around me."—"Order! order!" a prompt "Hear! hear!" and a volley of polite, drawing-room cheers arose from all the M.P.'s in the room, which were received into the funnel of the phonograph, and Colonel Gouraud remarked to Edison through the speaking tube, "That's the first time the British House of Commons has ever cheered in America." Two more phonograms, to complete the batch. Mr. Irving and his friend Mr. Joseph Hatton were dining with Colonel Gouraud the other evening, and at their request the phonograph was brought out after dinner. It addressed them by name, and called on them to respond, through it, to the master of its being. Mr. Irving had recourse to Shakspeare. "God bless you! Mr. Edison," he said. "You are a man, take you for all in all, we shall not look upon your like again." Mr. Hatton's response was not less happy: "Mr. Edison, the world is great. You are its electrician. I am your most wondering admirer."

TIGHE HOPKINS.

WHY EGYPT CANNOT GIVE UP SUAKIN.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, *January 6.*

IT is useless just now to speak of anything but Suakin. It is the topic which fills all minds here, and I have spent the week chiefly in interviewing Egyptian officials upon the subject, in order to ascertain as nearly as possible how much truth there is in the view taken by many people at home that Egypt does not want Suakin for herself, and would see with comparative indifference the establishment of a foreign Power there. On this point I have received the most definite answers on all sides. Certainly Egypt wants Suakin, and in the opinion of at least one high official Suakin must stand or fall with Egypt. To make it the Liverpool of the desert is a legitimate aim for the future, provided it is an Egyptian Liverpool—but even that is of problematic importance. It has an actual importance far greater in the eyes of practical politicians. It is the tap of the Nile. No foreign Power could possibly afford to hold it, and remain circumscribed by the walls. In the nature of things, whoever holds it must push on first to Tokar, Tamai, and Handoub, and then from Handoub to Berber and the rich tracts upon the Nile. Safety and natural advantage will compel them to this. Means of communication will become necessary to consolidate their new acquisitions equally whether these acquisitions go by the name of protected or of conquered territory. Roads, railways, canals will follow; the water of the Nile will be diverted. Recent events have shown that there is none to spare, and every drop drunk by the Suakin territory will be so much taken from the necessities of Lower Egypt. The new State would be nothing less than the vampire of the old. All the skill, capital, and enterprise which a foreign Power seated at Suakin would pour into the surrounding district would be, however indirectly, however unintentionally, just so many forces working against the very existence of Lower Egypt. Naturally, therefore, no Egyptian politician will consent if he can help it to the beginning of such a process. Nor is this all. Suppose there were water enough in the Nile for Egypt and a Suakin State, too. Suppose the new State to be conducted upon the most peaceful commercial principles, opposed to nothing except the slave trade, bent only upon enriching itself and civilizing the Soudan. Still it taps the trade of Upper Egypt, and the commerce of Lower Egypt must suffer the same drain as its agriculture. Upper and Lower Egypt are bound together. The true Egyptian frontier from the Egyptian point of view is the frontier of Mehemet Ali, which includes Khartoum. The ultimate aim of Egypt must be to recover it. It is evident that this cannot be done now. It is impossible to hold even Handoub without an increase of the army, and an increase of the army means expenditure which under present conditions cannot be met To push again up to the old frontier may be the work of perhaps half a century: it may have to be done by very slow steps, but it must remain the goal of all who have the future development of Egypt at heart. This also would be rendered impossible by the establishment of a new State on the Suakin-Berber frontier.

I offer no personal opinion. I am only repeating for the moment the views communicated to me, and they at least prove that in Egyptian opinion the retention of Suakin for Egypt is not a matter of indifference. Then the next question is, What does Egypt propose to do with it? With regard to the tribes round Suakin, they must be the friends of the strongest. It is not a question of sympathy. They have no means of defending themselves against Osman Digna or any other force the Mahdi may send. Their habits, as every one knows, are agricultural and commercial. They are also the carriers of the desert. To remain at war with the powers that be in the districts which they cultivate, or which they cross in commercial expeditions, is not possible for them. According to the latest information received, they profess, as they have always professed, a perfect readiness to be friends with us, but they ask, naturally: "What will you give in exchange? Osman Digna and his dervishes do not, it is true, give us much in return for our friendship, but they give us fire and sword for our enmity; can you protect us from them?" When the answer from Egypt is in the negative, they reply, "Then let us alone: how can we resist?" When, on the contrary, the answer is to send troops and drive off the dervishes, they come in as the Hadendowas have come in, and are delighted to be friendly. Whether they put the negotiations into a form of words or not, this must be the course of events. If the thrashing they have received or the chapter of chance keeps the dervishes away, the tribes will ask nothing better than to remain friendly. That is to say, some of them will. But though the Hadendowas and the Bischouris are the most important tribes of the neighbourhood, there exist numbers of others, of whom very little is known, who are constantly quarrelling among themselves, and who will doubtless cause disturbance.

The number of chiefs and the absence of any of sufficient importance to command the adherence of the others constitutes one of the difficulties of the situation, and makes a difference between the situation here and the situation on our Indian frontier, to which it has been compared. There is no one here with whom to treat. The petty chiefs are so many grains of sand. The authorities at Suakin may treat with one; another repudiates the treaty. They come to you to-day; they are blown from you to-morrow. What is wanted in order to make them into the buffer that is talked of between Egypt and the Mahdi is something that will give cohesion to the whole. What this cohesive medium is to be is the great question. One party recommends money. The tribes might be subsidized on good behaviour, as the chiefs of the Indian frontier are subsidized. But the very nature of the case makes this remedy in the opinion of others inapplicable. Before you subsidize you must know whom you subsidize and what the conditions of payment shall be. There is no responsible Power here to uphold. Every petty chief would come begging, and there would be no end to it. As well throw money into the sea at once as throw it into the desert. Besides, what are they to do with their money? Either they buy arms and create disturbances on the frontier, or they remain a defenceless prey to the Goths and Huns of the interior, who envy their comparative riches. The alternative of the party which does not believe in subsidizing the tribes is protection. Responsible Egyptian opinion is as much opposed as English opinion to anything like an aggressive military policy at present. That, they say, is outside the range of practical politics, but a guarantee of protection given to tribes which remain friendly to Egypt is believed in some quarters to be the only method of binding the sand into the bulwark that is wanted. The advocates of this course deprecate anything like forcible conquest, or the protection of large tracts at one time. They would advance slowly, waiting for the tribes to offer their allegiance and ask for protection, and thus, as they think, have the Egyptian advance on a sure foundation. From the Egyptian point of view this policy has at least the advantage that it leads somewhere. It leads to Mehemet Ali's old frontier. But it is barred by the *non possumus* of the Exchequer. Like many other things much desired, it must be renounced for want of cash. Therefore the troops are returning to Cairo, the Suakin question is spoken of for the moment as solved, and Egypt must be content to live a little longer, as she has lived for so many years, upon hope.

THE STAGE-STRUCK STAGS.

BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE PALACE PANTOMIME.

A PEASANT had a number of donkeys which carried his grain to the mill, and made themselves generally useful. But the great disadvantage of the donkeys was the fact that they were always munching, and always wanted their daily food. "Confound them," grumbled the peasant, "they might get accustomed to do without eating. I'll try them." The trial was made: the donkeys got accustomed to do without food, but on the thirteenth day they died. It was this anecdote, writes one of our representatives, that came into my mind as I was speeding towards the Crystal Palace yesterday afternoon, there to convince myself, if possible, whether the rumour was true that some stags were "cruelly hunted" in the "Cinderella" pantomime. Some little children in the train were talking with much animation of the "real horses and dogs and deer" which they were going to see. "Wasn't it fun, and wouldn't you like to be the man on horseback who hunted the stags, or one of the fairies that lived in the wood where the stag was hunted?" &c., &c. But how does the game look from the stags' point of view, I thought, and do they become accustomed to the "staging" as the peasant's donkeys did to the total abstinence arrangement? We shall see. The first person I interviewed was Mr. Oscar Barrett, under whose direction the pretty pantomime is conducted, and who has invented, arranged, and produced this newest version of an old, old story. It was ten minutes to three, and Mr. Barrett was just about to take his place as conductor among his orchestra, when I was ushered in to him in one of those queer back rooms of which there seems an endless number within the precincts of the Palace, but of which the general public knows and sees nothing. The room was fitted with wooden cases, as far as I could see in a rapid glance before I was in the midst of an interview. On some of the cases lay gigantic red and green and grey felt hats *à la* Buffalo Bill, but beside these I saw absolutely nothing, for Mr. Barrett, in his just indignation, took up my whole attention.

"Cruel!" he said, in a voice which was *not* a stage whisper. "Who is it that says there is any cruelty in bringing the stags on the stage? There is not one atom of truth in it, and I would like to see the person who can show me where the cruelty comes in. The statement is false and untenable, and those who have started it are just as mistaken as is Mrs. Fawcett with her agitation against allowing children to appear on the stage." (I must here say that I am not endorsing any statement made to me, but merely repeat Mr. Barrett's own opinion.) "These things are often different in practice from what they are in theory, and the goody-goody notions are not always practical or practicable. I know this, that we are always endeavouring to teach the little ones to live decent, honest lives, and by earning their living in the pantomime they are kept off the streets, and are accustomed to work and industry. The stag theory is the same, for the facts are merely these: the two stags which run across our stage are the same which were hunted at Olympia; Mr. Ginnett, one of the largest circus owners, bought them, and we have taken them from him for a certain time, after which they go back to him."

"Then what does the actual hunt consist in?"

"It consists in getting the stags to run twice across the stage, after which they go back to their cage and do what they like for the rest of the day."

"But do you not think that stags are naturally disinclined to feel at ease with a pack of yelping hounds at their heels?"

"I don't say that with the stag in its natural state this is not so, but the stags here are trained, and they are quite accustomed to the thing and do not mind it in the least."

"But is there not some danger that one of the lusty pack might one day forget that he is only an actor, and take the hunting *au grand sérieux?*"

"Not much," replied Captain Russell, who had joined us in the course of our conversation, and now continued, with a twinkle in his eye, "you see, we invert the usual order of things, for while at an ordinary hunt the dogs are always a good distance in front of the horses, we keep them between the two hunters. First come the stags, then a horseman, then the dogs, and after them another Nimrod. Now if ever one of the dogs should show a particular desire to get nearer to the stag than his part in the performance necessitates, a little reminder with the whip from the hunter is enough."

"And how do the dogs like it?"

"They like it well enough, and no wonder. All they have to do is to run for two or three minutes across the stage, and after that they, like the stags, do what they like. They are cared for in every possible way; they have their special kennels, the best of food, regular exercise in the grounds, and a bit of fun on the stage after the stags have gone back behind the scenes. But come and see for yourself, presently, before the hunting scene commences; I will show you the whole process as it appears behind the scenes. Only at present I should advise you to have a look at the pantomime. I will come for you at the end of the first ballet."

I did as I was told, and truly, though I have seen many a pantomime, I enjoyed it thoroughly. The scene in the King's Wood, where the animated autumn leaves dance their graceful dance, is charming from the artistic point of view, and the colouring of the costumes is a treat for the eye. Finally, the leaves disappear in a gust of wind, and the "hunting chorus" is heard. I heard it far behind the footlights, first in front of a large cage, through the bars of which Captain Russell allowed his hands to be kissed by one of the great, proud, condescending stags. "They are as tame as kittens," I was told, and they certainly were much calmer than any kitten I have ever come across. Opposite to them sat Nimrod on a dapple-grey, gorgeous in high riding boots, the greenest of green coats, and overshadowed by one of the sheltering felt hats which half an hour ago I had seen in the room of many boxes. And behind the huntsman—it was a sight to rejoice one's heart—stood, panting and with fiery eyes, the twelve speckled dogs, trembling with eagerness to have their run, but obedient, like so many well-disciplined soldiers, to a word, a look from their superiors. If I had the choice I should always look at the hunt from behind the scene; it is exhilarating, refreshing, after all the gilded splendour of the stage. Once they rush past, and off again they race, but one of the pack has had enough of it and turns philosophically towards the back quarters. "It's him as never *do* go a second time," reports one of the servants of these independent actors, and down he waddles to smell the heels of the four white ponies who are waiting their turn in front of an improvised manger. After a few minutes the heroes of the chase reappear also, but even now there is not the slightest sign of agitation to be noticed in either of them. Sleek, strong, and beautiful, they walk as quietly and cheerfully down to their cage as they might do were they in the most retired recesses of Richmond Park. Presently the dogs come panting along; the bugle is sounded once more, and the hunt is over. As far as I could see—and I was given every opportunity to see the whole process—there was no more cruelty in the hunt than there is in allowing children to ride on the elephant's back in the Zoo.

"Stay and see the ballroom scene," said Captain Russell, as I went out by the stage-door, "I think you will like it." Which I did, and liked it immensely.

DR. HENRY GEFFCKEN.

A SHORT but comprehensive biographical sketch of the man who has just lately suffered from the revengeful displeasure of that inscrutable master of muscular diplomacy Prince Bismarck may not be devoid of interest to newspaper readers. Dr. Geffcken is a wiry little man, considerably past middle age, for when in 1855 he was *chargé d'affaires* at Berlin for the then free city of Hamburg, his birthplace, he was twenty-five years old. An earnest, persevering, but somewhat noisy politician of strong national aspirations, he obtained ready recognition from many notabilities of the diplomatic world. But of higher social rank than these partisans, the late Prince Anthony of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen, had more than an ordinary feeling of respect for his abilities, whilst the present Emperor William II., who had known him at the University of Bonn, treated him as a friend and companion. At the time of the German crisis, which had its inception in the "war of the duchies," and terminated at the battle of Sadowa, Geffcken made no secret of his partialities and dislikes. His sympathies were rather with Germany as a Confederation than with Prussia as a nation. Later on, Hamburg having lost the right of accrediting diplomatic agents to foreign countries, his fellow-townsmen, by a vote of 18th July, 1869, elected him a member of their syndicate.

In that position he might have remained, in useful but inglorious activity, had not the political storm of 1870 afforded him another opportunity of answering the calls of a destiny which even the influence of Hamburgian aspirations was not sufficiently powerful to control. Dr. Geffcken, the popular member of the syndicate, sent in his resignation, being determined to try his fortune within the hubbub of political and social convulsions, where the man of active mind often finds the road which leads to success and distinction. Armed with his diploma of *Dr. der rechte* (D.C.L.), he joined the agitation which had for its aim the foundation of a Strasburg University. Here the choice of professors was based on a principle of a wide tolerance in the matter of political and religious belief. It was by no means a *sine qua non* that they should be fervent disciples of M. de Bismarck. What was principally required of them was that they should instil into the minds of their pupils the essential conditions of the Germanic system of civilization. Dr. Geffcken was appointed Professor of Civil Law at this university, where he pursued his calling with credit to himself and benefit to the youths of Alsace.

When Marshal Manteuffel made his appearance on the scene as Statthalter (Governor) he not only renewed his friendly relations with Professor Geffcken, but he accepted him as a colleague, by conferring upon him the title of Councillor of State. About this time the Doctor's health began to be affected, and possibly also his scholastic duties became irksome to him. He had never succeeded in freeing himself entirely from his political aspirations; and even at Strasburg he was the determined opponent of Bismarck's plan of revision of the old Church laws, the "Kulturkampf," and in consequence incurred the grave displeasure of the Iron Chancellor, who plainly intimated to him that he would have to go to "Canossa"—that is to say, apologise for his presumption; and indeed the Professor had to go to "Canossa" in fulfilment of that prediction.

Later on Dr. Geffcken published an interesting work on the Crimean war, with transcripts of letters on the subject written by Prince Frederick William, and copies of despatches exchanged between the Courts of London and Berlin.

In the Chancellor's official report, which was the preface to the arrest of Dr. Geffcken, there occurs, as every reader knows, the extraordinary statement that the late Emperor Frederick had disclosed State secrets to the Court of St. James. That such a slur should have been cast on the memory of Frederick by Prince Bismarck has possibly not surprised many people. One thing, however, is certain, that whilst the unfortunate Count Arnim was undone, and ultimately driven to despair and death, in his resistance to the will of the Iron Chancellor, in this instance, with regard to Dr. Geffcken, he has indeed reason to rejoice that he has not been left to the tender mercies of his unrelenting and unforgiving antagonist.

CADBURY'S COCOA is absolutely pure and untampered with. It has stood the keenest analytical tests, and consists solely of the concentrated essence of the Cocoa bean, the flavour being developed and the aroma improved by a special process of roasting.

NOTICES.

Announcements of BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, *and* DEATHS *are inserted for 5s. each. The* PALL MALL GAZETTE *is sent post free for any number of days to any address in the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and all countries in the Postal Union, at the rate of ninepence per week, or 9s. 6d. per quarter. The* PALL MALL BUDGET, *also post free, costs for the United Kingdom 4s. 11d. per quarter; for all countries in the Postal Union 5s. 8d. per quarter; for India and China 6s. per quarter. Apply to the Manager,* PALL MALL GAZETTE, 2, NORTHUMBERLAND-STREET, STRAND, W.C.

THEATRE ROYAL COVENT GARDEN.
Lessee, Mr. W. FREEMAN THOMAS.
HENGLER'S GRAND CIRCUS COMPANY.
TWICE DAILY, at 2 and 7.30.
Prices of Admission:—Gallery, 6d.; Amphitheatre, 1s.; Pit and Promenade, 2s.; Stage Stalls, 3s.; First Circle, 3s.; Grand Circle, 4s.; Stalls, 5s.; Boxes from 10s. 6d. to £3 3s. Early doors open at One o'clock and 6 30 (entrance, Hart-street) to Pit and Promenade, Amphitheatre and Gallery, 6d. Extra. Box-office open daily, from 10 till 5, under the direction of Mr. E. Hall. No charge for booking. Acting Manager and Treasurer, Mr. WALTER GOOCH. Musical Director, Mr. GEORGE CLEMMENTS.

SPECIAL NOTICE.—CHILDREN HALF-PRICE to MORNING and EVENING PERFORMANCES to all parts of the House (except Gallery) on payment at the doors, or seats can be secured in advance at the Box-office and all Libraries.—HENGLER'S CIRCUS, THEATRE ROYAL COVENT GARDEN.

COMEDY THEATRE.—TO-NIGHT, at 9 o'clock, a New Farcical Comedy, in three acts, entitled UNCLES AND AUNTS, by W. LESTOCQ and WALTER EVERARD. Mr. W. S. Penley, and special cast. Preceded, at 8, by FENNEL, by J. K. JEROME.—Business Manager, Mr. E. F. BRADLEY.

UNCLES AND AUNTS.—MATINEE SATURDAY NEXT, at 3 o'clock. COMEDY THEATRE.

CRYSTAL PALACE PANTOMIME.—CINDERELLA, TWICE TO-DAY, at 3 and 7.30. Invented, arranged, and produced by Oscar Barrett. A marvellous triumph! Delightful music! Exquisite scenery! Artistic dresses! Graceful dances! Perfect acting! Brilliant spectacle! Genuine fun! Pronounced by entire press to be one of the very best pantomimes ever witnessed. Seats, 1s. to 5s. For cast see under clock.

NIAGARA IN LONDON. COLOSSAL PICTURE of the GREAT FALLS, original effects, by PHILIPPOTEAUX. Pleasant Lounge, Music, American Sweetmeat Stores. Electric Light. Refreshments by Beguinot. Admission 1s. No fees. 10 to 10.—YORK STREET, WESTMINSTER, St. James's Park Station.

ART GALLERY.
ROYAL HOUSE OF STUART.—EXHIBITION of PORTRAITS, MINIATURES, and PERSONAL RELICS connected with the ROYAL HOUSE of STUART. Under the Patronage of her Majesty the Queen.—Open daily from 10 till 7. Admission 1s. Season Tickets 5s.—NEW GALLERY, REGENT-STREET.

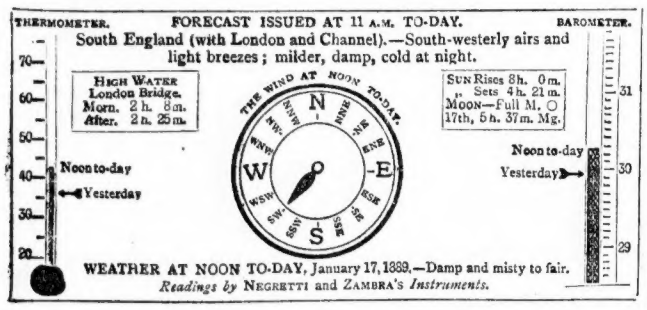
To-day and To-morrow.

TO-DAY.

County Council Elections.
Conference of Kindergarten Teachers, Fröbel Society, Society of Arts, 10.
"The Relation of Fröbel to Slöyd and Technical Education," by Miss Sherreff, Society of Arts, 8.
Royal Society, Burlington House, W., 4.30.
Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, W., 8.30.
Linnean Society, Burlington House, W., 8.
Chemical Society, Burlington House, W., 8.
"The English Novel in the Seventeenth Century," by Mr. Edmund Gosse, London Institution, Finsbury-circus, E.C., 6.
Historical Society, 11, Chandos-street, W., 8.30.
Numismatic Society, 4, St. Martin's-place, W.C., 7.
Dr. E. Symes Thompson on "Physic," Gresham College, Basinghall-street, 6.
Court of Common Council Dinner.
Children's Meals Conference, at Cannon-street Hotel, 3.
Concerts:—Royal Victoria Music-hall, Ballad Concert in Aid of Vauxhall Park. Miss Rose Kenny and Miss Patrice Boucicault's Musical and Dramatic Recital, Steinway Hall, 2.30. Mr. Sergison's Concert, 62, Warwick-square, 8.30. Mr. W. J. Petty's Concert, Bethnal Green Free Library, 8.
"Commercial Geography," by C. E. Musgrave, City of London College, Moorfield, 8.
"County Councils," by H. P. Cobb, M.P., Harrow Liberal Club, 8.15.
English Political Writers (Burke)—by Mr. J. H. Muirhead, M.A., Essex-street Hall, Strand, 8.
"Some Political Lessons from America," by Mr. Sidney Webb, St. Pancras Reform Club, 8.30.
School Board for London reassembles, Thames Embankment, 3.
The United Law Society's Smoking Concert, at the Courts' Restaurant, Outer Temple, at 8.30. Mr. Frank Lockwood, Q.C., M.P., presides.
Hurst Johnian Club Réunion Banquet, at the Holborn Restaurant.
Old Eastbournians Réunion Banquet, at the Holborn Restaurant.
Billiards—Championship of the World Tournament, Aquarium, 3 and 8.15.
Dr. Barnardo's Homes—Dinner to Unemployed, Edinburgh Castle, 4.
Company Meetings:—Central Bank, 50, Old Broad-street, 12; Consolidated Bank, Cannon-street Hotel, 12; London Joint Stock Bank, Princes-street, 12; United Discount of London, Cannon-street Hotel, 12.30; Channel Tunnel Company, London Bridge Station, 12.

TO-MORROW.

"Some Scientific Aspects of Truthfulness," by R. Brudenel Carter, 11, Chandos-street, 8.
11th Middlesex (Railway) Rifle Volunteers' Distribution of Prizes—Grand Hall, Euston, 8.
Philological Society, University College, W.C.—A Dictionary Evening, by Mr. Henry Bradley, 8.
Metropolitan Board of Works, Spring-gardens, 12.
Dr. E. Symes Thompson on "Physic," Gresham College, Basinghall-street, 6.
People's Concert, Victoria Hall, S.W., 8.
"The Theory of Association," by Mr. E. Saddler, Working Men's College, Great Ormond-street, 8.30.
Quick-firing Guns for Fortress Defence, by Captain F. G. Stone, R.A., Royal United Service Institution, 3.
"The Hittites," by M. T. Tyler, M.A., British Museum, 2.30.
"Journey across Africa," by Mr. F. Arnot, Conference Hall, Eccleston-street, 3.30.
"Colour and Character," by Captain F. Wilson, Balloon Society, St. James's Hall, 8.
National Health Society—Lecture on "First Aid to Injured," by Dr. Lancaster, 38, Portland-place, 4. 30


THERMOMETER.
FORECAST ISSUED AT 11 A.M. TO-DAY.
BAROMETER.
South England (with London and Channel).—South-westerly airs and light breezes; milder, damp, cold at night.
HIGH WATER London Bridge. Morn. 2 h. 8m. After. 2 h. 25 m.
THE WIND AT NOON TO-DAY.
SUN Rises 8h. 0m. ,, Sets 4h. 21 m.
MOON—Full M. ○ 17th, 5 h. 37m. Mg.
Noon to-day
Yesterday
Noon to-day
Yesterday
WEATHER AT NOON TO-DAY, January 17, 1889.—Damp and misty to fair.
Readings by NEGRETTI and ZAMBRA'S Instruments.

THE GERMAN EMPEROR'S FRIENDLINESS TO RUSSIA.

A St. Petersburg message says that the *Grashdanin* states that the German Emperor has presented special standard ribbons to the Russian regiment of which he is honorary colonel, and that they will be handed to the regiment by Colonel von Villaume, who has been specially charged with that duty by his Majesty. The journal perceives in this act of courtesy on the part of the German Emperor a pledge of the friendly relations existing between the German and Russian armies.—*Reuter.*

AN ELEPHANT'S REVENGE.

Brussels was thrown into great excitement the other day by a tragic event that happened in the courtyard of the house belonging to the Corporation of Fishmongers. Some days ago a travelling menagerie arrived in Brussels, and attracted great attention by its enormous elephant. The menagerie bivouacked in the courtyard of the Fishmongers' house. A boy of seventeen, who was employed in distributing handbills of the menagerie, was in the habit of teazing the elephant by twisting his tail. The elephant never remonstrated with the boy, and submitted to all his pranks with extraordinary patience, until at length the boy threw a bucketful of water over the elephant's head. This was too much. The weather was cold, and the elephant lost its temper. With one whisk of its trunk, it seized the boy by the right ankle and whirled him twice over its head and then dashed him against the wall. Death was instantaneous.

HOW THE MAN OF WEST BAY WON THE STANHOPE GOLD MEDAL.

The circumstances of the case in which the Stanhope Gold Medal (its highest honour) has just been conferred by the Royal Humane Society are recorded as follows:—The Soar at Leicester being frozen, a girl named Annie Freer, aged thirteen years, attempted to cross it on the ice, when she broke through and became immersed in fourteen feet of water. A man went out part of the way to the girl's assistance but returned, failing in his attempt to reach her. Albert Battison, aged seventeen years, boy of her Majesty's ship *Impregnable*, then went on the ice, actually dived under it, got hold of the girl, and in coming up broke the ice with his head; he succeeded in bringing the girl to the surface and afterwards to the shore. The officer commanding the boy's ship states that he cannot imagine a greater risk than that attendant on the act. "If the lad had not been able to break the ice he would in all probability have been drowned." He considers "diving under ice for a drowning person perhaps the greatest act of bravery that any one can perform, the risk being so great."

FOURTH EDITION.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTION.

CANDIDATES TO BE VOTED FOR TO-DAY.

We beg to remind our London readers that the poll for the County Council election is open until eight o'clock this evening. The polling places are the same as at parliamentary elections.

BATTERSEA.
Burns
Tims

BERMONDSEY.
Cooper
Thornton

BETHNAL GREEN, N.E.
Torr
Wren

BETHNAL GREEN, S.W.
Branch
Harrison

BOW AND BROMLEY.
Miss Cobden
Cook

BRIXTON.
Lady Sandhurst
Verney

CAMBERWELL.
Strong

CHELSEA.
Osborn
Smith

CITY (4 seats).
Rosebery
Lubbock
(If any elector wants to give a third vote here, it should go to Cohen. But we think it better to recommend plumping for Rosebery and Lubbock, in order to make their election quite sure.)

CLAPHAM.
Conybeare
Turner.

DEPTFORD.
Knight
Phillips

DULWICH.
Guttridge
Sandhurst

FINSBURY (CENTRAL).
Compton
Ford

FINSBURY (EAST).
Benn
Sinclair

FULHAM.
Beal
Easton

GREENWICH
Jackson
Lidgett

HACKNEY (NORTH).
Davies
Jones

HACKNEY (CENTRAL).
Bowser
Martin

HACKNEY (SOUTH).
Holmes
Jackson

HAGGERSTON.
Firth
Monkswell

HAMMERSMITH.
Cordingley

HAMPSTEAD.
Birch
Blyth

HOLBORN.
Maule
Murrough

HOXTON.
Austin
Moss

ISLINGTON, NORTH.
Grigsby
Parkinson

ISLINGTON, SOUTH.
Elliott
Memory

ISLINGTON, EAST.
Stonelake
Torrance
(Those of our readers who think that women candidates should be supported on principle, should vote for Miss Varley instead of one of the above.)

ISLINGTON, WEST.
May
Slater

KENNINGTON.
Myer

KENSINGTON, NORTH.
Lloyd
Stansfeld

KENSINGTON, SOUTH.
Campbell
Melladew

LAMBETH, NORTH.
Ford
Ryalls

LEWISHAM.
Conybeare
Lemon

LIMEHOUSE.
Ambrose
Leon

MARYLEBONE, EAST.
Farrer
Holmes

MARYLEBONE, WEST.
Debenham
Farrant

MILE-END.
Charrington
Hollington

NEWINGTON (WEST.)
Hopkins
Sichel

NORWOOD.
Doubleday
Hubbard

PADDINGTON (NORTH).
Judge
Maberley

PADDINGTON (SOUTH).
Dobbs
(There are other good candidates here; but as Fardell and Harris, both prominent Tories, are running together, the only way of getting Dobbs in is to plump for him—as Mr. Frederic Harrison, in this morning's *Times*, announces his intention of doing.)

PECKHAM.
Jones
Lyon

POPLAR.
Grosvenor
McDougall

ROTHERHITHE.
Carr-Gomm
Stevens

ST. GEORGE'S EAST.
Martineau
Sly

ST. PANCRAS, NORTH.
Lewes
Williams

ST. PANCRAS, SOUTH.
Edis
Hutton

ST. PANCRAS, EAST.
Hobart
Robinson

ST. PANCRAS, WEST.
Lawson
(Allen is an admirable man, and any electors who will waive his unsoundness on the police question should give their second vote to him.)

SOUTHWARK, WEST.
Haggis
Rhodes

STEPNEY.
Costelloe
Woollen

STRAND.
Curtice
Harries
Keevil
(Any two of these three.)

WALWORTH.
Marsland
Saunders

WANDSWORTH.
Dickinson
Richmond

WESTMINSTER.
Coppen
Ponsonby

WHITECHAPEL.
Catmur
Samuel
Tarling
(Any two of these three.)

WOOLWICH.
Green
Watts

IN DOUBT TO-DAY.

A VISIT TO SOME OF THE POLLING PLACES.

The election of members of the new County Council, which is taking place to-day in all parts of the metropolis, is proceeding without excitement.

Our representative who has been round the Strand district reports that very few voters recorded their vote in the first two hours after the opening of the poll, but at eleven o'clock the eight polling stations into which this district is divided were all fairly busy. For the purposes of the County Council election the same polling stations are used as at the parliamentary election. Each one this morning was guarded by two constables, and sandwich men bearing the names of the candidates were to be seen patrolling the polling places. For the two seats in the Strand district there are eight candidates, but it is quite evident that the favourite is Mr. Augustus Harris, to assist whose candidature carriages have been sent by Lord Londesborough, Mr. John Aird, M.P., Baron Rothschild, Mr. George Edwards of the Gaiety, Messrs. Spiers and Pond, Mr. Carlton Blyth, and about a score of other supporters. No other candidates for the Strand appear to have any vehicles placed at their disposal. It is expected that the heaviest poll not only in the Strand, but in most of the divisions will take place between one and two.

An incipient fog hangs over the City, somewhat characteristic of the condition of electors minds' regarding the new departure in county government. There is considerable difference of opinion as to the nature of the business of the County Councils even at this late date. Whether to vote for party or not is a question which disturbs many minds, and it is a fact that the Conservative candidates are making free use of this hesitation. The bills of more than one Conservative candidate declare in so many words that it is a fight between Conservatives and Radicals, and they seek by this means to secure a number of weak party votes.

A cold drizzling rain began to fall in the City soon after eight o'clock chilling people to the marrow, and taking out of them what little enthusiasm the novel election had aroused, for it must be owned with sorrow that the average Londoner has not yet awakened to the importance or necessity for the change which takes place from to-day. The polling-places in the City up to the hour of 11.30 A.M. had been but scantily patronized. A reporter visited several, and found the returning officers and their clerks in nearly every instance busily engaged in—doing nothing. At the Cornhill station, in St. Mary Axe, he was told that only some twenty or thirty votes had been polled. At Guildhall not so many electors had deposited their papers in the ballot box; at 35, Newgate-street, the Farringdon Within station, about as many, and so on at some six other places he visited. Busy people hurried to and fro on the streets, and passed the doors of the polling stations regardless: few loiterers stood around the doors, and but little interest seemed to be taken in the important issue of the day among the laughing, chatting, gossiping crowds who were continually arriving in shoals at the London Bridge, Cannon-street, St. Paul's, Ludgate-hill, and Moorgate-street railway stations. As the day progresses, and when at noontime busy men get out of their offices for their midday snack, a livelier scene is witnessed around each polling place but even then it is not the excitement of a parliamentary or even of a School board election—it is unmistakeably "only this new-fangled County Councils," and Lord Rosebery and Sir John Lubbock are the undoubted favourites.

East Marylebone is radiant this morning with the blue colours of Messrs Farquhar and Marks, who have the support of the Marylebone Constitutional Union, the Liberal Unionists, the licensed victuallers, and a section of the Radical party. Conveyances have been lent by Lord Fife, Lady Scott, Lord Charles Beresford, M.P., Mr. Alfred Rothschild, Mr. Reuben Sassoon, Miss Florence St. John, Mr. George Edwardes, Captain Jay, Captain Carleton Blyth, Mr. Sussex Nesbitt, Mr. Charles Harris, Mr. R. Attenborough, and others. Messrs. Farrer and Holmes, on the other side, do not appear to be so active. The polling is proceeding rapidly, and a heavy vote is expected on the return of business men from the City. There are 7,277 electors on the register, including about 1,600 women. The counting of the votes will commence at nine o'clock to-night.

All the four divisions of St. Pancras contested. Both political and local considerations are involved in the fight, which is of a severe character in all divisions. The polling this morning, with the exception of the South Divsion, was of a rather heavy charactes, and the poll in the West Division promises to be exceptionally heavy. The candidates are well supplied with conveyances, and several have sandwich-men parading the streets. Some of the candidates are relying on the support of the political associations, while others are running on non-political lines.

MR. BRIGHT NOT SO WELL.

This morning's news from Rochdale is to the effect that Mr. John Bright has spent a poor night, and his condition is unsatisfactory.

"UNITED IRELAND" ON MR. O'BRIEN'S "VICTORY."

United Ireland to-day, commenting upon the decision of the judges in Mr. O'Brien's case of contempt yesterday, in an article headed "Victory," says:—We may be pardoned some self-gratulation upon the result of the *Times'* unlucky attempt to gag us. Not only has the *Times* been baulked of its expected prey, but it has received from the very tribunal to which it appealed a more crushing condemnation than any words of ours could have conveyed. Mr. O'Brien's claim for perfect freedom of public comment upon the *Times'* policy of procrastination has been in substance admitted by the three judges, and that policy had been already ignominiously given up in obedience to the very public opinion which the *Times* appealed to that Commission to muzzle. This is a victory of supreme importance for the liberty of the press. All we have ever claimed was the right to force the *Times* to come to business, and it has come to business with a precipitancy which is almost ludicrous."

SOMETHING NEW IN TELEPHONES.

There is talk of a new discovery in connection with telephones which promises to revolutionize the system. The inventor (writes the London correspondent of the *Liverpool Post*) is James Lowth, who has been following up his first glimmer of invention for more than ten years. The instrument is a marked departure from the Bell telephone, and though it has no diaphragm, it transmits sound as perfectly as the Bell system. It is a combined transmitter and receiver. A hollow extension about four inches long is attached to the receiver, from the end of which a small button protrudes slightly. The button is placed against the throat near the vocal cords, and the receiver is held against the end in the usual manner. When the operator speaks, the vibrations of the throat are transmitted with distinct clearness. The instrument is operated, not by sound waves, as is the Bell telephone, but by the muscular vibrations that accompany the utterances of words. It is claimed by the patentees that for this reason the instrument can be used more successfully in long-distance talking than the old system, because there is no limit to the strength or number of batteries that can be used.

A CURIOUS QUESTION OF PRECEDENCE.

A curious dispute respecting precedence has arisen between the Mayor of Portsmouth and Admiral Sir E. Commerell, the Naval Commander-in-Chief. The town clerk maintained that Admiral Commerell should make the first call, the mayor being legally entitled to precedence. The gallant Admiral declined to accept this view of his status, and the matter was finally referred to the Admiralty, who, it is understood, have decided that it is not absolutely incumbent upon the Commander-in-Chief to make any official call upon the mayor.

RIGHT OF WAY IN LAKELAND.

Mr. R. D. Marshall lord of the manor and owner of the Derwentwater estates, Cumberland, has come to an arrangement with the Keswick and Lake District Footpaths Preservation Association as to the disputed rights of way over the estate. To the public Mr. Marshall not only concedes the road to the lake and Friars Crag, which he some years ago attempted to close, but he withdraws his opposition to the free use of the road over Castlehead, a wooded hillock adjoining the lake, though he has all along contended these were private property. In addition to now declaring them public rights of way, he also grants a right of way over Walla Crag, from which the public have for some number of years been excluded. This latter concession will tend to enhance the charms of Keswick.

STRENGTHENING OF THE RUSSIAN FLEET.

The *Grashdanin* (St. Petersburg) announces that the construction of three large Russian war vessels will be commenced this year.

BOARD SCHOOLS AS WORKING MEN'S CLUBS.

The evening classes committee of the London School Board intend to experimentally open working men's clubs in some of the schools for the further development of the social life of the artisan classes.

THE KING OF HOLLAND SOMEWHAT BETTER.

The King of Holland is rather better this morning, having slept soundly during the night. He left his bed yesterday for two hours and took some food.

EXTRAORDINARY DISTURBANCE IN A SYNAGOGUE.

The colony of Jews in Limerick are reported to have had a serious quarrel in their local synagogue while celebrating the Jewish Sabbath on Saturday. The rabbi, it is asserted, was knocked down, and the book used for the service was carried off. The matter was reported to the police, and Mr. Irwin, R.M., attended at the police-court yesterday to take depositions. None of the Jews, however, put in an appearance. One of their number is stated to have been wounded during the disturbance.

Prince Dolgorouky, Russian Minister to Persia, started to-day for Teheran to resume his post.

Mr. Parnell has been kept in confinement for the last few days by an attack of rheumatism in one of his shoulders.

The case of the young Englishman Gibson, arrested in St. Petersburg, will become a State affair, as the chief offence with which he is charged is of a political nature.

The *New York Herald* yesterday printed a sensational story concerning an alleged plot of English detectives in this city to destroy a British steamer in New York Harbour, in order to damage Mr. Parnell's case before the Commission.

Mr. Shaw-Lefevre, M.P., addressing his constitutents at Bradford last night, said in the main he had no fault to find with the foreign policy of the Government, which had been one of non-intervention, though he thought some satisfactory arrangement might have been made with the Arabs at Suakin by skilful and careful negotiation.

H.M.S. "VICTORIA."—With the forthcoming issue of the *Army and Navy Gazette* will be presented a cleverly executed sketch of H.M.S. *Victoria*, the Jubilee battle ship, which was launched at Elswick in 1887, and received her name in honour of the Queen's Jubilee. She is to be the flagship of the Mediterranean squadron as soon as her great 110-ton guns are ready, which, it is expected, will be early in this year.

THE PARNELL COMMISSION TO-DAY.

CROSS-EXAMINATION OF THE "INVINCIBLE" WITNESS.

The cross-examination of the convict Delaney was resumed by Mr. Reid, at the Parnell Commission Court, this morning. "I have a question or two to ask of you," he began, sternly. In answer to these questions, witness said he heard Boyton give an order to Brady as an Invincible. It was in the middle of the summer of 1882; Boyton pointed out Mr. Burke, the chairman of the Prisons Board, as he came from the railway station saying, "That's the man." He had never seen Boyton before or since; he only knew that it was Boyton from what Brady had said to him. With reference to the visit of Mr. Shannon to the prison, witness said Shannon brought a letter to show his *bona fides*; but he did not know from whom it came or by whom it was signed.

SOME DETAILS OF PRISON LIFE.

"Where are you stopping in London—at an hotel or in a prison?" asked Mr. Michael Davitt.—"In a prison cell."

"You are well treated, I suppose?"—"No."

"Badly treated?"—"Well, no. I don't look like a man badly treated, do I?"

Witness proceeded to say he was a first class prisoner, working as a carpenter at Maryborough. Warder Montgomery was always with him, but they had no conversation. Conversation, except on prison matters, was strictly prohibited.

"The warder never spoke to you about the Commission?"—"I knew nothing of the Commission before I came here—no more than a child unborn. I do not know even how my own wife and children are, I am that secluded. My wife has not the means to come to see me."

"Your wife writes to you?"—"Regularly; every two months. But she has never mentioned the Commission."

A FEW PERSONAL MATTERS.

Witness, in answer to further questions from Mr. Davitt, said he saw him (Mr. Davitt) on the occasion of his release from prison, which he thought was in 1878. He saw him at the Mechanics' Institute; there was a meeting there, the objects of which witness did not know. No one was allowed to enter but those who belonged to the Fenian organization. With reference to the Rotunda meeting at Dublin in April, 1880, witness adhered to his statement that Mr. Davitt supported O'Hanlon in the reading of an amendment hostile to the Land League.

Was that the extent of the support extended by me to him and his friends?—I think so.

Witness could not say that he thought Mr. Davitt's object in getting the resolution read was to afford fair play to an avowed opponent. The resolution was read by Mr. Davitt, but witness did not recognize it. He said he saw Mr. Davitt in company with Daniel Curley, in Talbot-street, Dublin, early in 1881.

"HE THOUGHT TO NAIL HIS DUPES."

Witness first heard of the organization of the Invincibles at the latter end of 1881. He knew Thomas Brennon—he saw him on the night of Mr. Davitt's arrest, and was positive that Mr. Davitt took a revolver from his breast and handed it to him. He was positive about this—"seeing's believing," he added.

"I suppose you will admit that James Carey knew more about the Invincibles than you do?"—"He hid it," replied witness; adding bitterly, "he thought to nail his dupes, and save such as you."

"You are one of his dupes, I suppose?" asked Mr. Davitt.—"I am one—to my grief," replied the man.

"How did you know I went about trying to get support among the Fenians for the Land League?"—"Every one knew that."

"You never recollect my being attacked for having left the Fenian organization?"—"Never to my knowledge: you were always upheld by them."

Mr. Biggar was content to elicit the fact that while he advocated the reading of O'Hanlon's amendment, he did not (to witness's knowledge) subsequently support it.

THE RE-EXAMINATION OF DELANEY.

The Attorney-General then proceeded to re-examine Delaney. He said the Fenian Organization had but little money before 1879: the members subscribed according to their means: personally he subscribed a weekly threepence. The centres upon one occasion had to pawn their watches in order to send delegates to a meeting of the Stephenites. Witness knew that Egan was in Paris: it was generally reported, and the "cleverality" of his escape was much admired. Mr. Attorney was anxious to obtain some information from witness with respect to a fourth letter from Egan in Paris to Carey in Dublin; but Mr. Reid objected, and the objection was upheld by the court.

"NO. 1"—A MYSTERIOUS PHOTOGRAPH.

Continuing, witness said a person was placed at the door of the Fenian meetings, and every centre of a circle had to pass in his own men. He had been present at two or three meetings at which only Fenians were present, and which Egan also attended. At this point a photograph was handed to witness. "Do you know who that is?" asked the Attorney. "That is the gentleman called No. 1," he replied. The name at the bottom of the photograph was covered up, and Sir Richard Webster mysteriously enjoined every one who desired to look at it not to disturb the covering. Only the learned President was allowed to remove it.

DELANEY GOES BACK TO PRISON.

The re-examination of Delaney here came to an end. Mr. Reid asked that he might remain here for a few days. They wanted to make some inquiries; and, moreover, because Mr. John O'Connor, said to be the member, had been referred to, they desired that the two should be confronted. The Attorney-General disclaimed the suggestion that the O'Connor mentioned was the member, but raised no objection to the witness's remaining. The President intimated that he would make an order, and Delaney was taken back to prison.

BACK IN THE OLD RUT AGAIN.

The sensational had now to give place to the commonplace. Reginald Digby, a land agent, entered the box, and leaning confidently upon the rail in front, proceeded to unfold the old story. He spoke with reference to the estates of Lord Digby in King's county and Queen's county. A smartly-attired young gentleman next made his appearance, and to the manifest surprise of everybody, stated that he became a land agent as long ago as 1878, and that he was now agent for estates in Limerick, Clare, Cork, Leitrim, Sligo, Donegal and Kildare. Mr. George Hewson was examined by Mr. Atkinson; but his evidence had in it nothing new. Counsel took advantage of the lull to have a little general conversation among themselves.

AERONAUTS DRIVEN TO SEA AND DROWNED.

The Dutch aëronaut, M. Henri Wolff, made an ascent at Antwerp in his balloon, the "Dynamiteur des Airs," at eleven o'clock on Tuesday morning. He was accompanied by an officer of the Belgian Gardes, Lieutenant Daniel. About three o'clock the wind carried the balloon out to sea, and in the evening it was seen off Ostend descending. Nothing has since been seen or heard of the balloon or its two occupants, and it is feared, with only too much probability, writes the *Standard* correspondent, that they are both drowned, their chance of being picked up by a passing vessel in the dark being very small indeed.

A GLASGOW FANCY GOODS WAREHOUSE BURNED.

This morning Sir James Galbraith's fancy goods warehouse in Howard-street, Glasgow, was destroyed by fire. The damage is estimated at £5,000.

SERIOUS ILLNESS OF SIR C. DU CANE.

Sir C. Du Cane, K.C.B., Chairman of the Board of Customs, is lying seriously ill at his residence at Braxted Lodge.

THE MURDER IN PARIS.

The corporal named Geomay, who was arrested on suspicion of being the murderer of a woman who kept a wine shop on the Boulevard St. Germain, has made a full confession.—*Reuter.*

THE FAMOUS CHARTREUSE DISTILLERY.

The proposal to buy the interest of the Carthusian monks in their liqueur factory is characteristic of this century of change. A London banking firm offers £320,000 for the plant, goodwill, and the recipes, which are still a secret. The affair is considered at the Vatican to be of such great importance that the Pope has sent a Legate to the prior of the monastery to tell him that he hopes he will accept the offer. One correspondent says he has decided not to do so. A difficulty in the way of the Order has been a rule enjoining them only to have dealings with Christians, and there are Jews in the bank, or rather, banking syndicate. The Legate has been charged to impress upon the Order that it is only by Papal tolerance that they can sell their liqueur, the rules of their founder prohibiting every kind of traffic, and that his Holiness can free them from their obligation to have no dealings with Jews.

The *Soleil* this morning denies, from what it terms an authoritative source that there has ever been a question of the monks disposing of their monopoly and adds that no Papal Legate has been sent to Grenoble.

THE BITTERNESS OF BISMARCK.

DR. GEFFCKEN'S INDICTMENT.

A PITIFUL DISPLAY OF THE PETTINESS OF THE GERMAN COLOSSUS.

Berlin had its breath taken out of it yesterday, says the correspondent of the *Times*, by the publication in the official *Reichsanzeiger* of the text of the Acte d'Accusation against Dr. Geffcken for high treason. The Emperor has commanded the publication of the whole Acte d'Accusation, to the end that the world at large may draw its own conclusion as to the merits of the case. It is in the interest of his Majesty's administration of justice, says the Chancellor, to afford the several Governments, no less than public opinion, an opportunity of forming an independent opinion on the subject, "thus bringing the facts to the knowledge of all who are rightly entitled to see the judicial authorities of the Empire always act in a just and matter-of-fact manner."

For this purpose the Chancellor begs permission of the Emperor to publish the Acte d'Accusation against Dr. Geffcken, as well as to submit this, with all the rest of the material therewith connected, to the Federal Governments, through the Bundesrath; requesting his Majesty to comply with this demand in order, as he wrote, "to enable the Governments and their subjects to form their own opinion as to the conduct of the Imperial judiciary in the case of Dr. Geffcken." Both these documents, the Chancellor's Report and the Emperor's reply to it, are published by the *Reichsanzeiger* by way of preface to the Acte d'Accusation.

WHY BISMARCK HATES DR. GEFFCKEN.

In the Acte d'Accusation Prince Bismarck plainly reveals the cause of the bitterness with which he regards Dr. Geffcken. Dr. Geffcken is accused in the indictment of secretly sympathizing with and supporting the various fractions of the Opposition. It is true that in a magazine article published in 1883 he lauded the foreign policy of Prince Bismarck, yet his subsequent correspondence with Baron von Roggenbach on the affairs of Germany furnishes ample and irrefragable proof of his personal hostility to the Chancellor in almost all the fields of the latter's policy. It is also in evidence that once, about ten years ago, at a social gathering, he delivered himself in the most excited manner as to the merits of Prince Bismarck, saying that he had not one single noble trait in his character, and was without a trace of kindliness or pity.

Moreover, the correspondence above alluded to shows, it is stated, Dr. Geffcken in the light of a very conceited, ambitious person, deeming himself cut out to play a great political role, and bitten with mortification at the non-recognition of his merits. Consequently, on the death of the Emperor Frederick, he fancied that he had found a means in the diary of belittling the services of the Chancellor; and in the extracts from the diary which Dr. Geffcken saw fit to reveal the shortcomings of Prince Bismarck, and the illustrious qualities of Baron von Roggenbach, are pitted against each other with a malicious intention that cannot be mistaken.

A STRANGE ACCUSATION.

Hand in hand, too, with this public attempt to discredit Prince Bismarck's policy went a secret attempt on the part of Dr. Geffcken to damage him in the eyes of the Emperor. This attempt took the form of a very lengthy paper on the prospects of the present Emperor William's reign, comprising reflections on all the various phases and aspects of the Chancellor's foreign, domestic, and ecclesiastical policy. These reflections, it seems, culminated in a lament on the increase of ministerial one-man power in Germany, and in a solemn warning against the concentration of so much authority in one man, after the present Chancellor had quitted the stage, as in the course of things he would soon have to do—a species of authority which, in the long run, would weaken that of the Crown and run counter to the Federal character of the Empire. The existence of this paper, which, it is true, had never yet reached its destination—namely, the present Emperor—was discovered through a couple of impounded letters, dated August 24 and September 6, from Baron von Roggenbach to Dr. Geffcken, and it appears to have been drawn up by the accused at the instance of the former statesman, who, however, on reconsidering all the pros and cons. of the case, dissuaded his co-partner in the enterprise from carrying it for the present to its logical conclusion.

SIR ROBERT MORIER AGAIN.

It is stated in the Acte d'Accusation that the common friend and confidant, Morier, so frequently referred to in the correspondence between Dr. Geffcken and Baron von Roggenbach, is the present English Ambassador at St. Petersburg. In a letter dated September 6, 1888, the Baron expresses his approval of a political memorial which, it was proposed should be presented to the Emperor William II., and adds that in a few days he would be meeting Sir R. Morier. It only remains to be seen to what extent Sir Robert Morier is believed to be implicated in what Prince Bismarck regarded as an intrigue against himself. Prince Bismarck, says the Berlin correspondent of the *Times*, has now shown some of his trumps, though not all his hand.

HOW HE GOT THE EXTRACTS FROM THE DIARY.

After Dr. Geffcken's arrest he gave the following account of the way in which he had come by the diary, and his motives for divulging it:—

He had made the acquaintance of the late Emperor Frederick while studying with him at Bonn, and had also enjoyed his friendship between 1856 and 1868. In February, 1873, when acting as professor at Strasburg, he had been invited by the Crown Prince to Wiesbaden, and then his Imperial Highness had lent him his diary of the war of 1870-71, with leave to carry it with him to Carlsbad, where he was then going to take the waters. About three weeks after this he had returned the diary to the Crown Prince with a letter of thanks. The diary consisted of about 700 pages, all exclusively in the handwriting of its author; and from this he had made extracts to the extent of about twenty closely-written pages, mainly of political import, through the diary for the most part concerned itself with military matters. But though in making this excerpt he had abbreviated he had neither added nor altered anything. This lending of the diary to him he had looked upon as a special sign of favour, and he had neither begged nor received permission to make extracts from it, yet he had deemed himself at liberty to do so.

WHY HE PUBLISHED IT.

After the death of the Emperor Frederick he had resolved, in August, 1888, to publish his excerpts from the journal, minus some passages which seemed to him rather unsuited for the light, and so he handed the manuscript to the editor of the *Rundschau*. In acting thus, his aim was by no means a political but an historical one, and in particular he wished to point out, in contradistinction to the widespread opinion that Kaiser Friedrich was merely a noble idealogist, the fact of his political importance, and the circumstance that he was a primary force (*triebende Kraft*) in the work of founding the German Empire. It is true that he had no permission whatever to publish the diary, and in particular he did not believe that he would receive such permission in the event of his applying for it from the Empress Frederick.

To this the prosecutor replies that no weight could be attached to the contention of Dr. Geffcken that his main object was to place in a true light the merits and character of the deceased Emperor, seeing that even he himself also ventured to speak most disparagingly of the illustrious patron whom he pretended to honour. Thus, in a letter to Baron von Roggenbach, dated February 22, 1887, he said:—

But the Crown Prince, as aiming, not at power, but the mere appearance of it, will not feel that he is the captive of the Chancellor's majority.

Apart from this, the accused himself looked upon the plans and proposals of the deceased Emperor as too far-reaching and impracticable.

DR. GEFFCKEN'S VINDICATION.

Dr. Geffcken asseverated that he had never thought of impeding the policy of the Empire, and repeatedly avowed that he had looked upon its Chancellor as an indispensable servant of the Crown; referring in proof of this to the fact that the Emperor Frederick's Rescript to the Chancellor, published in the *Reichsanzeiger* on March 12, after his accession, as well as his proclamation, "An mein Volk," were drawn up by him, Dr. Geffcken. Certainly, this was quite true, the drafts of these State papers having been found, and impounded, in the house of the accused, and copies of them in the possession of Baron von Roggenbach. In drawing up this Rescript he (Dr. Geffcken) had pointed out that the keynote of all such proclamations, according to the wish of the Crown Prince himself, must be an expression of his desire to retain the services of the Chancellor.

ACCIDENT TO MR. MARJORIBANKS, M.P.

Mr. Marjoribanks, M.P., sustained a serious accident yesterday afternoon while hunting with the Berwickshire foxhounds. The meet was at Preston, near Duns, and while running a fox near Bunkle Manse Mr. Marjoribanks's horse, in jumping a double fence, blundered and fell, and seemed to roll over its rider. In getting up the horse kicked Mr. Marjoribanks severely on the side of the face, and for some time he lay quite unconscious. Last evening Mr. Marjoribanks was reported to be much better and progressing favourably.

THE MONEY MARKET.

Half-past One.

BANK RATE 4 PER CENT.—STOCK MARKETS AGAIN QUIET.—GREAT EASTERN AND SOUTH EASTERN DIVIDENDS.

The Bank of England directors at their meeting this morning decided to make no alteration in the official minimum, which therefore remains at 4 per cent., to which it was reduced last week. In the open market the supply of money is by no means superabundant, and lenders are again able to obtain 2½ per cent. for short loans. In the discount market the supply of bills is small, and the rate for three months' bank paper is nominally unaltered at 2¾ per cent. For some days now the discount rate has remained almost stationary, and the opinion is pretty general that the tendency of it will be to harden, as the collections of the revenue will now soon begin to tell on the supply of cash in the market. There is also the possibility of gold withdrawals for abroad to be taken into account.

Two more of the English Railway companies have announced their dividends, and are given below, but they have had little effect on the market for Home Railway Securities, as they are about what had been anticipated. Consols and other Home Government Funds are steady without material change, but in the English Railway market there is a little irregularity. South Eastern Deferred is weak, also Brighton Deferred and Chatham descriptions, but otherwise there is a rather better tone. Foreign Government securities are generally higher, so far as European issued are concerned, the principal inquiry having been for Spanish Four per Cents. Advices from Buenos Ayres to hand this morning announce another rise in the premium on gold to 51.60 per cent., and South American currency issues are in consequence weak. American Railroads are depressed in sympathy with the lower New York quotations, and Grand Trunk of Canada stocks have given way on the traffic. Mexican Railway issues are dull, but Spanish Copper Mining shares are the turn higher.

The reports that a syndicate or trust has been formed in the Sewing Cotton Trade in connection with which the names of Messrs. Clark and Co. and Messrs. J. and P. Coats, of Paisley, have been mentioned, are denied.

Subscriptions are invited for 167,000 shares of £1 each in the "Wolverand Klerksdorp" company, being a portion of a share capital of £250,000. The company has been formed to acquire and develop auriferons reefs situate at Klerksdorp in the Transvaal, South Africa, and consisting of 102 claims. The properties are said to have been tested, and have yielded good returns. The subscription list will open on Friday and close on or before Monday for both town and country applications.

The share lists of the Union Mortgage Banking and Trust Company (Limited) will close both for town and country to-morrow (Friday) at noon.

According to a Reuter's telegram, the Nationalbank für Deutschland proposes to increase its capital by 9,000,000 marks, which will be issued to the present shareholders at the price of 125 per cent., with the privilege of participating in the dividend from July next.

Mr. Justice Chitty has appointed Mr. Edward Hobbs (Messrs. Kennedy Hobbs, and Co.), of 11, Old Jewry Chambers, London, E.C., chartered accountant, receiver and manager of the Anglo-American Wood Carpet Company, Limited.

The following dividends have been announced:—Foreign and Colonial Government Trust on Deferred stock, 9 per cent. for half-year, together with a bonus of 1 per cent.; British and Foreign Marine Insurance Company, 8s. per share, and a bonus of 6s. per share for half-year; Reliance Marine Insurance Company, at the rate of 10 per cent.; International Marine Insurance Company, at the rate of 7½ per cent. per annum; and Barnsley Brewery Company, at the rate of 8 per cent. on Ordinary shares (interim).

The traffic receipts of the Grand Trunk Railway of Canada for the past week show an increase on the main line of £101; a decrease on the Chicago and Grand Trunk of £595, and a decrease on the Detroit section of £375, thus making a total falling off on the combined system of £869.

We are informed that the St. Pauli Breweries Company (Limited) have been awarded the first prize at the Melbourne Exhibition for their Lager and Pilsener beers.

The letters of allotment of the Antofagasta (Chili) and Bolivia Railway Company have been posted.

LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET opens quiet with a fair demand. Probable sales 10,000 to 12,000 bales. Prices on the spot are steady. Futures partially half-point down.

The following are the latest changes compared with yesterday's closing prices:—

HOME RAILWAYS.—*Improved*: Caledonian, Great Eastern, Midland, and North British Preferred and Deferred ¼ each. *Lower*: South Eastern Deferred ½, Metropolitan ¼, Chatham Preference ¼, the Ordinary ⅛, Brighton Deferred, and North Eastern ⅛.

FOREIGN STOCKS.—*Advanced*: Argentine Treasury ½, Spanish Four per Cents. ⅜, French Three per Cents. ¼, Greek 1881 ¼, Egyptian State Domain ¼, the Preference ⅛, the Unified 1-16, Italian ⅛, Peruvian 1870 and 1872 1-16. *Declined*: Hungarian Gold ¼.

AMERICAN RAILWAYS.—*Risen*: Illinois Central ½. *Fallen*: Louisville and Nashville ⅜, Lake Shore, Milwaukee and St. Paul, and Union Pacific shares ½ each, Erie and Philadelphia and Reading shares ⅜, Central Pacific, New York Central, and Missouri, Kansas, and Texas ¼, Atlantic Firsts, Norfolk and Western and Northern Pacific Preferences ¼, Mexican Central Bonds, Ohio and Mississippi Ordinary, and Wabash Preference ¼, Ontario and Pennsylvania shares, ⅛.

CANADIAN AND FOREIGN RAILWAYS.—*Higher*: Nitrate shares ½. *Lower*: Grand Trunk First, Second, and Third Preferences and Guaranteed ¼, the Ordinary 1-16, Mexican Ordinary and Canadian Pacific ⅛.

MINES AND MISCELLANEOUS.—*Improved*: Primitiva Nitrate ¼, Suez Canal ¼, De Beers ⅛, Mason and Barry and Rio Tinto 1-16. *Receded*: Bryant and May ⅛.

The following are this day's 1 o'clock prices of the principal Stocks and Shares:—

BRITISH FUNDS, ETC.			Brighton A.....	134½	¾	London and West.	69	70
Consols	99½	100⅝	Chatham (Ordinary)	64⅞	⅞	London Joint Stock	40½	1½
New Consols (2¾)	99	⅝	Do. Preference..	103½	6	Nat. Prov. of Eng.	43½	4½
Reduced 3 p. c. ..	100¾	¾	North Western	174¼	5	Stand. Bnk. S. Africa	51½	2½
Local Loan Stock..	105¼	¾	South Western	144	5	**MINES.**		
New 2½ per Cent.	56¼	¾	Manchester & Shef.	68	70	Indian Consolidated	5/16	⅜
India 4½ per Cent.	107¼	¾	Do. A	3⅝	6½	Mysore shares	4 7/16	9/16
Do. 4½ p. c. Ru.	70½	¾	Met. Consolidated .	74¾	5½	Ooregums	1⅞	2⅛
Egyptian Guar. ..	104	¼	Do. Loan Stock	69½	70½	Cape Copper	5½	¾
Met. Bd. Wks. 3½	101	¼	Do. District ..	33½	4	Namaqua	3¼	¼
Do. 5 p. c. Scrip	103¾	¼	Midland	137⅞	8½	Mason and Barry..	9½	¼
BirminghamCrp.St	111	12	North British Pref.	76¼	½	Rio Tinto	24	¼
Liverpool	111¼	12½	Do. Def.	53	¼	Montana £1 shares	2 1/16	3/16
FOREIGN STOCKS.			North Eastern	163½	½	De Beers new shares	17⅜	⅝xd
Argentine 6 p. c. ..	103	4	North Stafford	114½	15½	S. African Explor.	17	¼
Do. Hard Dols..	67¼	8¼	South Eastern	135	5	**TELEGRAPHS & TELEPHONES**		
Do. Treasury ..	99	6	Do. Deferred....	107⅝	⅞	Anglo-American ..	51	2
Austrian Gold	92	4	**FOREIGN RAILWAYS.**			Do. Pref.....	85	6
Do. Silver.....	68	70	Canada Pacific	83½	⅝	Brazilian Submarine	13¾	⅝
Brazilian 1875	101¼	2½	Gen. Pacific Share	8⅞	⅛	Direct Unit. State	10	¼xd
B. Ayres 6 p. c....	101	3	Chic. Milkand St. Pl.	65⅞	⅛	Eastern	12½	¼xd
Do. Cavalas I....	53	⅛	Denver & R. Grande	17⅛	⅛	Ditto Extension..	12⅜	¼xd
Chilian 6½ p. c. 1885	101	4	Do. Pref.....	40¼	⅜	United Telephone	14⅜	⅜
Costa Rica A.....	91	2	Illinois Shares	120⅜	1½	Globe Teleg. Trust	7	¼
Do. B	89	90	Lake Shore	104⅜	¼xd	**TRAMWAYS, ETC.**		
Egypt, State Dom.	101½	2	Ohio & Mississippi	23⅜	3	London Gen. Om..	195	205
Do. Unified	84¼	⅜	Louis. and Nash..	68¾	9	London Street	13	14
Do. Preference..	102¾	3	Mex. Cen. Bonds..	71¾	⅜	London Tramway..	14	15 xd
Do. Daira Sanieh	77⅜	83½	Miss. Kan. & Texas	13¾	14¼	North Metropolitan	173/4	183/4
French 3 p. c. Rnts.	81¼	25	N. Y. Cen. Shares	111	½xd	**WATERWORKS.**		
Do. 4½ p. c. Rnts.	105¾	¾	New York Ontario	15½	¼	Chelsea Waterworks	253	63
Greek 5 p. c. 1881..	87⅜	⅜	Erie Shares	29½	¼	East London	202	6
Hung. Gold Rentes	84	¼	Do. Sec. M. Pf...	104⅜	5½	Grand Junction ..	121	5
Italian	94⅛	5⅜	Norfolk & West. Pref	53¾	⅝	Kent	277	82
Mexican Converted	83⅜	¼	N.Y.P. & O. 1st M.	33¾	¼	Lambeth	252	7
Peruvian 5 p. c. 72	14⅛	16⅛	North Pacific Pref.	61¼	2¼	New River, New..	360	60
Do. 6 p. c.	15⅜	17⅜	Pennsylvania Sh..	60⅞	¼	Stwrk & Vauxhall	167	72
Portuguese	6⅜	⅛	Phil. & Read. Sh..	24⅞	⅝	W. Middlesex	262	7
Russian 1873	102¾	⅛	Union Pacific Shares	69⅛	⅛	**GAS & ELECTRIC LIGHT.**		
Spanish 4 p. c.	73 9/16	1 0/16	Wabash Preference	25	⅛	Oxlight & Coke A.	257	60
Turkish 1855	99	101	Do. Gen. Mort..	41	2	Imp. Continental ..	203	15
Group 1	27⅜	⅝	Grand Trunk Ord.	10¼	⅛	South Metropolitan	302	7
Group 2	16	⅜	Do. First Pref..	67⅜	⅝	Brush Elec. L. (£4 pd)	3¼	4¼
Group 4	15¼	⅝	Do. Second Pref.	47⅞	⅝	**MISCELLANEOUS.**		
4½ p. c. 1071....	84⅜	5	Do. Third Pref..	25	⅛	Allsopp	8	¼
5 p. c. Defence ..	86½	7	Do. Guaranteed..	74½	¾	Guinness and Co....	310	15
5 p. c. Priority ..	84	6	Mexican Ordinary	20½	¼	Hotchkiss	11¼	⅜
Uruguay Unified ..	70	½	Do. First Pref.	113	¼	Bryant and May ..	12⅞	13¼
Virginia Funded ..	64½	4½	Ob. do. 2nd Pref.	69	½	Spratt's Patent	10⅜	⅛
U.S. 4½ p. c.....	110	12	Lombardo-Venetian	9	⅛	Liverpool Nitrate..	28	9
BRITISH RAILWAYS.			Varna & Rust. Pref.	8¼	⅛	Primitiva Nitrate..	36¼	¼
Caledonian.....	117⅞	⅝	Nitrate Railway ..	27	¼xd	Salt Union Shares	3¾	4½pm
Great Eastern	63	½	**BANKS.**			P. and O. Steam ..	65	7
Great Northern....	113½	13½	Alliance Bank	14	⅛	Royal Mail Steam	64	6
Ditto A	105	4	City Bank	20	1 xd	Nat. Discount Co..	11¼	12
Great Western	151¼	2	Consolidated Bank	8	½	Hudson's Bay	13¼	19½
Hull and Barnsley	33¼	4¼	Imperial Ottoman	11 7/16	9/16	Suez Canal.....	83¼	¾
Lanc. and York....	117½	13½	London and County	83½	30½	E. & W. Ind. Dock	19	21
Brighton (Ordinary)	144	6	Union of London..	40½	1½	London and St. K.	41	3

The following are quotations of securities receiving attention at present, and not given in our list above:—

Bell's Asbestos.....	10¾	⅜	Langlaagtes	7¼	⅛
Tarapaca Bank	4¼	¼pm	Jubilee	9¾	10¼
Tarapaca Water	15¼	¾	Robinson	60	2
Jumper's Gold	14	½	San Jorge.....	9¼	¾pm
Spes Bona	5⅝	6	Pahang Corporation	4¾	¼pm
Wemmers	14¼	15¼			

RAILWAY DIVIDENDS.

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY DIVIDEND.

The directors of the South-Eastern Railway Company have declared a dividend for the past half-year at the rate of 6¼ per cent., with £10,500 carried forward. A year ago the dividend was 7 per cent, and £5,345 was carried forward.

GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY DIVIDEND.

The directors of the Great Eastern Railway Company announce a dividend at the rate of 3½ per cent. for the past half-year, carrying forward £40,000. For the second half of 1887 the distribution was the same, and £40,503 was carried forward.

TO-DAY'S TITTLE TATTLE.

The *Worcester Daily Times*, the editor of which brought the proprietor beneath the notice of Sir James Hannen on Tuesday, is a little pink halfpenny sheet, whose chief function is to feed Berrow's *Worcester Journal*. The *Journal* is a staid Tory weekly, and one of the oldest newspapers in England, as it was founded in 1695. This sudden glare of publicity came as a great surprise to the conductors.

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The Hon. G. R. Dibbs, the new Premier of New South Wales, according to yesterday's cable messages from the Antipodes, is a man of strong will and iron determination. Rather than pay costs that he believed were unjustly awarded against him, he preferred to spend twelve months in Darlinghurst Gaol, Sydney, for contempt of court.

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Two of the ministerial colleagues he has chosen—Messrs. T. M. Slattery and J. P. Garvan—are out-and-out Home Rulers and Australian Nationalists. The New South Wales Parliament, by the way, unanimously carried a motion of sympathy with Queensland in claiming the right to be consulted before a new Governor is definitely appointed by the Colonial Office.

***

Mr. Axel Welin, to whom Miss Hedenström is to be married next week, is the son of a gentleman who acted for many years as private secretary to King Oscar of Sweden, and to his father, King Charles, before him. As Miss Hedenström said yesterday, after explaining that she and Mr. Welin are going to carry on the work among the sailors, "He was brought up to a very different life to that which he leads here in the East of London."

***

The union of charity with business has rarely been better exemplified than in a letter received this morning from a local genius who is getting up a popular entertainment "in aid of a well-known charity." "It has occurred to me," he writes, "that you might be inclined to support so good a cause—say, on these terms: if you will take seven 3*s.* tickets I will cause the ventriloquist to refer to your firm and business. If you agree to this, I will write the 'wheeze' myself, or will adopt any you may send."

***

I should like to hear how many editors (or tallow-chandlers, for I suspect there was a different form for the newspapers, only this slipped in by mistake) have succumbed to the attraction of having their "firm and business" referred to in a "wheeze" obligingly evolved by Mr. ——, and made to issue from his ventriloquist's boots at a suburban entertainment.

***

Here is a hint for authoresses. Amélie Rives Chanler at home in her Virginia woods never stays indoors on the very worst days if she feels one of her strong impulses moving her to seek fresh air and exercise. She wears on such occasions stout sealskin boots, laced up the front and with wide, heavy soles. Over these she buckles a pair of heavy, dark red leather leggings, which reach above the knee. Her skirt is of blue corduroy, and barely falls to the calf. The bodice is a Norfolk jacket of the corduroy, with a scarlet handkerchief knotted close about the throat. On her head she wears a blue wool Tam o'Shanter that sheds water like the back of a duck.

***

Mrs. Frances Hodgson Burnett is extremely fond of dress. When Mrs. Burnett first began to make her appearance in Washington drawing-rooms several years ago her costumes used to be the source of amusement. At that time she was still doing most of her work for the second-class magazines, and had only suddenly attracted the attention of the reading world by "That Lass o' Lowrie's," which had been published in the *Century*. She had the deep-rooted love of the provincial for swansdown, and her favourite evening dress was a pale blue silk trimmed with a mass of the fluffy white down. She was very fond of wearing massive rings, on her first finger. She is very fond of plush, and most of her morning gowns and négligées are some rich shade of that material, combined with heavy Japanese crape. Mrs. Burnett is said to have made already £5,000 on "Little Lord Fauntleroy." It is said she can earn nearly £12,000 a year with her pen.

***

The "curiously-chequered career" of the late Earl of Seafield, to which the *World* refers, amounts to this—that during the period when he bore the courtesy title of Viscount Reidhaven he was successively an auctioneer's clerk, a storeman at a salary of thirty shillings per week, and a bailiff in the town of Oamaru, New Zealand.

***

The same colony supplies us with another and a still more curiously-chequered career in the person of Sir Charles Burdett, Bart., who has been sentenced, at Auckland, to fourteen days' hard labour for stealing roses from the Domain. He is reported to have presented a venerable but somewhat dilapidated appearance in court.

***

Sir Charles is stated by Dod and Debrett of 1888 to be "residing abroad"—a polite synonym for "nobody knows where he is." He has been knocking about the colonies for years, often with shoeless feet and unrecognizable hat, picking up a precarious subsistence by stripping bark from trees, cooking for bushmen, and doing odd jobs about squatters' stations. And yet this seventh baronet of his line once held her Majesty's commission in the army. When will relatives come to see the folly and the cruelty of packing poor erring fellows off to the colonies to give the "hopeless cases" here a chance of reforming over there?

***

Lady M——, a well-known figure in the streets of Melbourne, is another case in point. She is the sister of a charming peeress, whose portrait may be seen in most of the shop windows where Bishops and professional beauties gaze vacantly at one another all day long. Lady M——, herself the wreck of a once beautiful woman, receives a quarterly remittance of £50 from England. Immediately she gets the money she goes upon what the reporters of the Melbourne evening papers are wont to describe as "a howling tear." In other words she becomes boisterously drunk, and makes a disgraceful exhibition of herself in the streets. If her English relatives had a particle of common-sense, they would send the money to some trustworthy person in Melbourne with instructions to disburse it in accordance with the unfortunate woman's daily or weekly needs.

THE MONUMENT TO ROUSSEAU.

It is intended to unveil the monument of Jean-Jacques Rousseau on February 3. The "Apostle of Affliction" will, therefore, be the first philosopher of the Great Revolution to whom such an honour will be paid in this centenary year. The statue will be placed in the Panthéon, and its inauguration will be accompanied by considerable pomp, the interior of the Panthéon being decorated for the occasion with flowers, shrubs, and Gobelins tapestry. Official and artistic France will be strongly represented at the ceremony, during which airs from Jean Jacques's opera, "Le Devin du Village," will be sung by leading "stars" of the lyric stage. The musical programme will also include Marie Joseph Chenier's "Hymne à Rousseau" and the "Hymne à la Liberté."

TO THE MEMORY OF JOSEPH MAAS.

A handsome memorial tablet to the late Mr. Joseph Maas, the famous tenor singer, was yesterday unveiled in Rochester Cathedral. The tablet is in marble, with a medallion portrait of the deceased vocalist, and is placed on the east wall of the south transept in the nave of the cathedral. Beneath is the following inscription:—"In affectionate remembrance of Joseph Maas, who died on January 16, 1886, in the thirty-ninth year of his age. In the choir of this cathedral he first learned that power of song which made him, though young in years, rich in reputation and honoured as a great singer and musician, and who, loving and beloved on earth, now rests in hope of the time when the redeemed of the Lord shall come with singing unto Zion." At the afternoon service in the cathedral Wesley's anthem, "The Wilderness," was given, the solo in this being the last Joseph Maas sang as a chorister in the cathedral.

Bord's Pianos. 25 per cent. discount for cash, or 15*s.* per month (Second-hand, 10*s.* 6*d.* per month) on the three years' system. Illustrated Lists free of CHAS. STILES and CO., 42, SOUTHAMPTON-ROW, HOLBORN, LONDON, W.C. Pianos exchanged.

'BUSES FOR SMOKERS IN LONDON STREETS.

Under the title of "Botham's Pioneer Saloon Car Company (Limited)," a company has just been formed which has acquired, as a going concern, Mr. Charles Botham's line of Pioneer Halfpenny Fare Saloon Cars now running in Tottenham-court-road, and also from Hampstead-road to Oxford-circus. It is proposed to considerably augment the number of these cars, and to run them on short routes in various parts of London. But the novelty with which this company intend to startle London is that they propose to run every second or third omnibus on each route as a smoking car, fitted with automatic delivery machines, such as we now see on railway stations and at street corners, for the supply of cigars, cigarettes, tobacco, and matches. They will also be fitted with racks of newspapers, so that a passenger can read the latest news solaced by an excellent cigarette or cigar. The company believe that there has long been a lack of smoking accommodation in the London street vehicles on a wet day, gentlemen having either to sit inside a 'bus and go without their smoke, or sit outside and get chilled and wet. The promoters of this new venture, therefore, confidently expect that their novel idea will be greatly appreciated by the general public, and that their cars will be largely patronized.

MR. GLADSTONE TO VISIT KING AND POPE.

Mr. Gladstone, who had at first decided not to come to Rome, has, writes the Rome correspondent of the *Chronicle*, now changed his mind, and has requested an audience of King Humbert. As a consequence, Mr. Gladstone has felt himself obliged also to request an audience of the Pope, which his Holiness has freely accepted, although it is generally understood that this action of the Pontiff is viewed with marked disfavour by the Salisbury Cabinet. The visit of the ex-Premier, however, must be regarded merely in the light of a simple act of politeness, and is not likely to have any political character. Mr. Gladstone is expected here in a day or two.

A COMMUNIST WEDDING.

All the leading Socialists and Communists of Paris have just been celebrating the marriage of Mdlle. Jeanne Eudes, the daughter of the late "General" Eudes, of the Commune, whose funeral, about a year ago, was the cause of serious street disturbances. Of course, the ceremony was as "civil" as it could be, and was accomplished at the Mairie of the Third Ward. The happy man was a M. Deloche, and the "witnesses" of the bride were Citizen Henri Rochefort and Citizen Vaillant, the notorious agitator whose advanced opinions are well known.

TO THE CAPE IN EIGHTEEN DAYS.

The remarkably fast passage of the Castle liner *Roslin Castle*, which was noted at the time of her arrival at Cape Town, proves to have been completed in a much shorter steaming time than any previously recorded voyage between England and the Cape. Leaving Dartmouth at 4 P.M, on December 7, the *Roslin Castle* reached Cape Town at 1 P.M. on Wednesday, the 26th of December, having called at Lisbon, Madeira, and St. Helena. The entire distance, 6,102 knots, was covered in 18 days 21 hours, the net steaming time being 17 days 18 hours 30 minutes, average speed 14.35 knots.

THE GRAVES OF KEATS AND SEVERN.

The Convention between the Municipality of Rome and the German Ambassador, acting also in the name of the representatives of the other Protestant Powers, relating to the cession of a portion of the old Protestant Cemetery, is (writes the Rome correspondent of the *Standard*) now drawn up. The document, which will shortly be submitted for approval to the Communal Council, contains the following clauses:—

The Imperial Embassy of Germany cedes to the Commune of Rome the area constituting the old Protestant Cemetery. In exchange for the above-named space the Communal Administration cedes an area belonging to it adjoining the actual Protestant Cemetery and the wall of Rome.

The Commune of Rome, in becoming proprietor of the area thus ceded, may use it for any purpose, with the exception of a certain zone within the said area, in which shall be preserved the tombs of the English poets Keats and his friend Severn, which shall be enclosed within an iron railing.

The Communal Administration binds itself to exhume and transport the mortal remains of those buried in the area which is given up (with the exception of those indicated in the preceding paragraph) and also their respective memorial monuments, and to place them in the new ground in a proper and decorous manner.

Many English readers will doubtless (adds the correspondent) still regret the destruction of that corner of the old cemetery, but it will be seen that if the articles of the above quoted agreement are adhered to, a great victory will have been obtained regarding precisely those two graves around which English sentiment clung most fondly, and, within their reduced enclosure, they can still be objects of pilgrimage on the old doubly-hallowed spot.

THE OFFICERS' OLIVE BRANCH.—A ROMANTIC STORY.

A few days ago a paragraph went the round of the Press stating that an officer who had been made a bankrupt for debts amounting to £800 had unexpectedly received from an old brother officer a cheque for the amount, and that the bankruptcy had consequently been annulled. The story, when told in full, looks (says the London correspondent of the *Sheffield Telegraph*) more like romance than reality. The officer who was in trouble was a Major-General, and the gentleman who has befriended him was also an officer. Years ago the two officers were in the same regiment, and became friends. But it happened that on one occasion they quarrelled, and the estrangement lasted a considerable time. One Christmas, however, the General received from the other gentleman an envelope containing a simple little Christmas card—a bird with an olive branch in its beak. The General kept this for a year, and the following Christmas sent it in the same way back to his friend. He also kept it till the next Christmas, and then once more returned it to the General. For thirty years this token of renewed friendship has been going backwards and forwards, and last Christmas it happened to be the General's turn to send it. In the worry caused by the turn his affairs had taken, he forgot all about the card, until, two or three days after Christmas, it was come upon accidentally by his wife. She put it in an envelope, but instead of sending it in the usual way enclosed a note explaining why it had been overlooked, with a newspaper cutting referring to the bankruptcy. Promptly there came in reply a cheque for £1,000, with the intimation that as the sender had just come into a large fortune he was only too pleased to come to his friend's rescue, and that in future he intended to keep the olive branch as his most cherished possession.

A BIG WEST OF ENGLAND CANAL SCHEME.

A scheme for connecting the English and Bristol Channels will be brought before the public in the course of a few months. The route fixed upon by the engineers who have recently explored the district is from Stolford, in Bridgwater Bay, passing through the towns of Bridgwater, Langport, Ilminster, and Chard, to Seaton, on the English Channel. The total length of the canal will be about forty-five miles, and, with the exception of the Chard range of hills, the work of excavating, &c., for the whole distance will be comparatively easy, presenting no engineering difficulties. The canal is intended to be capable of admitting the largest steamers afloat, as well as the ships forming the Channel Squadron.

BURIED BIBLICAL TREASURES.

In the Allan Library, one of the most valuable biblical collections in London, the Wesleyans have for some time had a magnificent gathering of books rendered practically useless by their being hidden away in almost inaccessible regions, and scarcely unpacked. The trustees of the Wesleyan Publishing Department, however, have now secured the four houses, forming an angle, which intrude between the Conference Office frontages of City-road and Castle-street. The ground thus acquired will considerably enhance the value of the property, and the fit housing and display of the Allan Library will be taken in hand as soon as possible.

THE MARLOWE MEMORIAL.

The committee, of which it will be remembered Lord Coleridge is chairman and Mr. Sidney S. Lee, 26, Brondesbury-villas, is treasurer, are about to issue a circular appealing to all who value the honour of our national literature to unite in enabling the committee to raise to the memory of Christopher Marlowe a monument worthy of his genius. Various proposed sites have been rejected, and it is now intended to erect a work in sculpture at Canterbury, where Marlowe was born in 1564.

VANCE'S WILL.

The will, dated the 28th of July, 1877, of the late Mr. Alfred Peck Stevens, vocalist, known as Alfred Glanville Vance, of Sussex House, Vauxhall Bridge-road, formerly of Fullwood House, Gray's-inn, has been proved by Miss Eunice M'Lewee Vance, the sole executrix, to whom the testator leaves all his property, real and personal, and by whom the value of the personalty has been returned for probate at £39 7*s.* 5*d.*

CADBURY'S COCOA is a refined concentration of the strength-sustaining principles of the flesh-forming constituents of the Cocoa-nib. Delicious, nutritious easily digested, and of great economy, a sixpenny packet yielding fourteen large breakfast cups of perfect Cocoa. It is absolutely pure.

EDISON'S PHONOGRAPH TO BE LET ON HIRE.

I believe that, after all, when the phonographs arrive in England from Mr. Edison's manufactory (writes the London correspondent of the *Birmingham Post*), they will not be put upon the market in the manner originally contemplated. The company formed to exploit the new invention in America has decided not to sell the machines, but to hire them out at a rental of so much per annum. I believe that the company in course of formation in London will adopt a similar arrangement. I hear, further, that the cost of hiring a phonograph will be somewhere about £8 a year; and that Colonel Gouraud has already received orders from societies, commercial houses, and other institutions, in such numbers as to make it certain that whatever quantity of phonographs he may receive from America during the next twelve months will be very readily disposed of on these terms. Three hundred men are at work night and day in Edison's manufactory, getting the phonographs ready for shipment, but I dare say that it will be three months or so before the first great batch arrives. Colonel Gouraud has taken, for the offices of the company, a magnificent building exactly opposite to the Hôtel Métropole, in Northumberland-avenue, which he has very happily named Edison House.

Colonel Gouraud's secretary was seen at Edison House yesterday by one of our reporters. He said that no plan was yet settled, but he expected that ultimately the phonographs would be rented out, just as the telephones are now, but he could not say what the rate would be.

A BULLET THIRTEEN YEARS IN A MAN'S CHEST.

In view of the Muswell-hill outrage, the following will be read with interest:—Hugh Walker, while marking at the Beith volunteer range about thirteen years ago, was accidentally shot in the back of the shoulder by a bullet which passed through a slit in the marker's mantlet. In the Glasgow Western Infirmary he was under treatment for nearly two months, but the surgeons failed to find the bullet. Some months later a splinter of the bullet was extracted, after which the wound healed. Last week a slight swelling appeared at the lower part of the chest, where a small opening had formed like a pin hole. On an incision being made a folded flattened piece of the leaden bullet was removed, weighing nearly a quarter of an ounce.

THE HALF-YEAR'S LONDON AND COUNTRY BANK DIVIDENDS.

The directors of the joint stock banks are meeting their shareholders with satisfactory reports of the past six months' business, and hopeful prognostications as to the future. In the matter of dividends—which after all is the only barometer which the general public study—there is very little change. The National and the National Discount have declared 1 per cent. less than at the corresponding period, but all the other London banks have maintained their old level, and larger amounts have in some cases been carried to the reserve funds and the profit and loss account. The London and Westminster bank is an exception, £3,000 less than a year ago being carried forward. In the case of the country banks, all the movements have been in an upward direction. Birmingham and Midland pays 1 per cent. more than last year; the Bristol and West of England, 2; the Exchange and Discount, 5; the Lancashire and Yorkshire, 1; the London and Yorkshire, 1; and the York City and County, 1. The remainder stand as they were. The following is a list of the dividends declared:—

LONDON.			
Alliance	7	London Joint Stock	12½
Central of London	10	Lloyds, Barnetts, and Bosanquets	15
City	10	London and Provincial	14
Capital and Counties	18	National	9
Consolidated	10	Union of London	12½
Imperial	7	National Discount	12
London and Westminster	16	Union Discount	9
PROVINCIAL.			
Adelphi	8	Lancashire and Yorkshire	7
Birmingham and Midland	15	Liverpool Union	15
Birmingham Banking	15	Leeds and County	6
Birmingham, Dudley, and District	10	London and Yorkshire	7
Birmingham Joint Stock	20	Manchester and County	15
Birmingham and Midland	15	Manchester and Liverpool District	20
Bradford District	10	North and South Wales	15
Bradford Old		North Eastern	5 5-6
Bristol and West of England	10	North Western (Liverpool)	7
Carlisle City and District	15½	Nottingham Joint Stock	15
County of Stafford	12½	Parr's Banking Company	17½
Derby Commercial	10	South Wales Union	8
Exchange and Discount	10	Wilts and Dorset	24
Halifax and Huddersfield	10	Wolverhampton and Stalfordshire	15
Halifax Joint Stock	12½	York City and County	17
INDIAN AND COLONIAL.			
Bank of Bombay	10	English, Scottish, and Australian	10
Bank of Bengal	10	National of New Zealand	5
Bank of Madras	8	Union of Australia	12
City of Sydney	12½		

Lord Balfour of Burleigh will on Wednesday next take over the duties of his new position as Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade.

The Chief Secretary for Ireland gave a ball at Dublin Castle last night. There was a very large company.

Agents of the Italian Government are purchasing three thousand horses and five hundred mules in Hungary, for the Italian artillery.

Orders have been received at Portsmouth directing the preliminary steps in connection with the naval mobilization to be carried out at once.

An exhibition devoted to the fishing interests of the whole Empire will shortly be opened in St. Petersburg.

The project of an exhibition in London of the works of Munich artists has been abandoned.

A carpenter has travelled 300 miles from Dublin around Ireland and failed to get employment.

It is announced that Prince George of Wales will not rejoin the Mediterranean Fleet, his Royal Highness having been appointed to the Channel Squadron.

Mr. Henry Clarke, a member of the Common Council, yesterday issued his address as a candidate for the aldermanic vacancy in the ward of Bishopsgate, caused by the death of Sir T. S. Owden.

The Leamington town council has decided that the electric light has been "a miserable failure," and resolved to give the company that supplied it twelve months' notice to end the contract.

The Bishop of Peterborough has appointed Mr. F. H. Jeune, Q.C., eldest son of his predecessor, Chancellor and Vicar-General of the diocese, in succession to the Rev. William Wales, who has resigned after holding the office since 1850.

In public affairs women had but slight, if any, influence with President Grant. But his consideration and kindness for the gentler sex, especially for those in need, was proverbial. By his directions many widows and daughters of confederate leaders were kept in office.

The value has been declared at £23,483 of the personal estate of the late Stephen Reay, of Holland-road, Kensington, who died in November, and had been for twenty-two years the secretary to the London and North Western Railway Company. He leaves all his property to his wife.

Last evening the mail coach which runs between Barnstaple and Lynton in connection with the London and South Western Railway upset after it had covered about six miles of the journey. Mr. Lowe, of the firm of Taylor, Lowe, and Co., timber merchants, Bristol, was killed on the spot.

TRAFFIC RETURNS.

The traffic receipts of the undermentioned companies for the week ended Jan. 13, compared with the corresponding week last year, are as follows:—

RAILWAYS.	Increase.	Decrease.
Brighton	£1,535	—
Caledonian	3,907	—
Eastern and Mid.	62	—
Great Eastern	3,015	—
Great Northern	3,285	—
Great Western	2,040	—
Lanc. and Yorkshire	2,070	—
Manc. and Sheffield	1,094	—
Mersey	—	£118
Metropolitan	326	—
Metropolitan District	203	—
Midland	211	—
North British	3,976	—
North Eastern	3,514	—
North Stafford	661	—
North Western	6,316	—
South Eastern	722	—
South Western	2,047	—
Tilbury	212	—

TRAMWAYS.	Increase.	Decrease.
Belfast	£184	—
Edinburgh	30	—
Germany	34	—
Glasgow Tr. & Om.	125	—
Gothenburg	—	£3
Hull Street	—	33
Imperial	—	12
London	5	—
London Street	26	—
London Southern	—	8
North Metropolitan	736	—
Provincial	640	—
Rouen	—	93
Sheffield	80	—
Southampton	—	5
South London	—	63
Sunderland	23	—
Swansea, &c.	29	—

SIR MORELL MACKENZIE writes about the Soden Mineral Pastilles:—"I regard them as extremely valuable in obstinate Catarrhal Affections of the Throat. They are especially beneficial to Catarrhal Diseases of the Air Passages. I frequently found them of great service in the cases of singers and public speakers." Acknowledged by the Medical Profession the best remedy for Throat Irritation, Coughs, Bronchitis, and Asthma. Of all Chemists, 1*s.*, 1½*d.*, or 13 stamps, from 10, Dyer's-buildings, Holborn, E.C.

"FOR THE BLOOD IS THE LIFE."—Clarke's world-famed Blood Mixture is warranted to cleanse the blood from all impurities, from whatever cause arising. For Scrofula, Scurvy, Eczema, skin and blood diseases, and sores of all kinds, its effects are marvellous. Thousands of testimonials. In bottles, 2*s.* 9*d.* and 11*s.* each, of all Chemists. Proprietors, Lincoln and Midland Counties Drug Company, Lincoln. Ask for Clarke's Blood Mixture, and do not be persuaded to take an imitation.

THE LATE LORD BEACONSFIELD.

NEW STORIES OF HIS EARLY YEARS.

There are some interesting stories and reminiscences of Lord Beaconsfield's early life in the new number of the *Quarterly*, which is published to-day.

THE QUEEN AND LORD BEACONSFIELD.

The article is nominally a review of Lord Beaconsfield's published letters to his sister; but the real interest of it lies in the fact that the writer, who is an old friend of Lord Beaconsfield's, has had access to the correspondence with Mrs. Austen, who was the young Disraeli's earthly providence previous to his marriage with Mrs. Wyndham Lewis. The writer has also been able to draw on information in the possession of the late Mr. Murray, with whom Disraeli was on intimate terms. It is by the way incidentally stated in the article—doubtless on good authority—that "the Queen is desirous that Lord Beaconsfield's papers should speedily be published in the form of a biography, with a view to the vindication of the policy and conduct of a Minister who had earned her esteem and in whom she placed no ordinary trust."

DISRAELI'S BIRTHPLACE.

With regard to the disputed question of his birthplace, it was, we are now authoritatively informed, in the King's-road, Gray's Inn. With regard to his family, we learn that the late Mr. Rawdon Brown, who had spent more than half a century in Venice, used to relate that when he first came there, two old ladies, who were said to be the aunts of Isaac d'Israeli, the author of the "Curiosities of Literature," and the father of the statesman, were still living in the Ghetto, where they kept a small school.

DISRAELI AS AN ART CRITIC.

The writer gives some interesting information upon the young Disraeli's early love of pictures and of the fruit it afterwards bore. "When he was Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir W. Boxall, then Director of the National Gallery, had occasion to see him respecting the purchase of some pictures. On returning from his interview, Sir William expressed to a friend his surprise at the acquaintance with art which Mr. Disraeli had shown, adding that his remarks and criticisms showed a technical knowledge of painting which could scarcely have been expected from a mere amateur." When he was applied to for public funds to enable the trustees of the British Museum to buy the famous Blacas collection, he did not hesitate to sanction its unconditional purchase. The late director of the National Gallery, Sir William Boxall, when about to leave England for Madrid, with the object of seeing the altar-piece known as the "Colonna Raphael," which had been offered by its owner, the Duke of Ripalda, to the Trustees of that Institution, waited upon Mr. Disraeli, then Chancellor of the Exchequer, to submit to him the desirability of acquiring it for the nation, should it prove on examination worthy of the gallery. Mr. Disraeli at once acquiesced. "But, sir," observed Sir William, "a very large sum indeed will be expected for it;" a million of francs, if not more, were, we believe, asked. "Never you mind," was the reply: "you buy the picture and I'll find the money."

The following passage shows us Disraeli in an unexpected light:—"The earliest recollection of the writer of this article of Lord Beaconsfield is connected with a visit, to which he was taken when quite a child, to Mrs. D'Israeli—his mother. 'Ben' was sent for, and appeared in his shirt-sleeves, with boxing-gloves, having been interrupted in the middle of a lesson from a professor of the noble art. In his youth he was a constant rider. He used to say that some of his best thoughts and ideas came to him when scouring the country mounted on a good horse."

HIS FAIRY GODMOTHER.

Of Mrs. Austen, who first encouraged Disraeli's talent, and who gave him the means of travelling, &c., we have this account (she was the wife of a solicitor to whom Mr. Ralph Disraeli was articled):—"She was highly accomplished, a proficient in music, an amateur artist of no common skill, possessed great conversational powers, and had a rare command of her pen. Disraeli wrote of it: 'the comprehensive circuit of your lively pen;' and in one of his many letters to her says: 'you appear to be the only person in the world, except myself, who have any energy; what would I give to have you always at my right hand!' She had gathered round her a circle of men of letters and artists, including some of the foremost authors and painters of the day, with many of whom she maintained a correspondence. Disraeli confided to her the secret that he was writing a novel; consulted her during its progress; received from her much valuable advice; and ultimately placed the MS. of 'Vivian Grey' in her hands to arrange for its publication. The MS. of 'Vivian Grey,' and that of 'Captain Popanilla,' Disraeli's second work, were found among Mrs. Austen's papers on her death, which took place in June last, when she had reached the advanced age of ninety-two years. It was even believed by her friends that she had had a share in the composition of 'Vivian Grey.'"

DISRAELI AS JOURNALIST.

Before "Vivian Grey" was written Disraeli had tried journalism—and failed. "Although in after life he disclaimed having had anything to with the *Representative*—a daily newspaper published by Mr. Murray, who was one of the first to recognise his talents—we have reason to believe that he did take no inconsiderable part in suggesting to Mr. Murray this untoward speculation. It proved a failure, and had but a short existence. He was also the principal contributor to the *Star Chamber*, an equally ephemeral weekly sheet, and was the author of the 'Dunciad of To-day,' a mock-heroic poem, which appeared in it, and was left unfinished when that short-lived periodical came to an end."

AS TRAVELLING COMPANION.

When after these labours young Disraeli's health broke down, it was the Austens who took him abroad with them (August-October, 1826)—not as his biographers have it to Greece, but to Switzerland and Italy. The Austens proposed that he should occupy a seat in their travelling carriage in a tour through France and Italy. He accepted the offer in a bantering letter:—

"As the man says who is going to be hired," he wrote, "I think the situation will suit. It ill befits any man to dilate upon his own excellence, but I may perhaps be allowed to observe that my various, not to say innumerable, accomplishments are not altogether unknown to you; and as for my moral capacities, why, I have a good character from my last place, which I left on account of the disappearance of the silver spoons. I defy, also, any one to declare that I am not sober and honest, except when I am entrusted with the key of the wine cellar, when I must candidly confess I have an ugly habit of stealing the claret, getting drunk, and kissing the maids.

"The only noteworthy record of Disraeli during the French portion of their expedition was his appreciation of a good French dinner, and his love of Burgundy, of which he liberally partook. His preference of this wine over all others remained to him, we believe, through life. He would say, jokingly, that it required a bottle of Burgundy—'rich and red Tonnerre' was his favourite—to make him speak and talk his best."

DISRAELI PINING FOR A COUNTRY-SEAT.

Curiously enough, Disraeli's famous visit to the East—the visit which gave him the entrée to society and which coloured all his after career—was undertaken only *faute de mieux*. His real ambition was to be a country gentleman! In December, 1829, he wrote to the Austens:—"I am sorry to say that Stockton is no go. The fact is, that great and general as is the agricultural distress, this county (Buckinghamshire) is suffering much worse even than its neighbours, and the governor is fairly frightened. Here rents are never paid, farms are daily thrown up, and stock is given away. . . . I have said all that I can venture. . . . Therefore I must give up all idea of an estate which would have exactly suited me."

The Austens ultimately provided him with the money for his Eastern tour, the particulars of which are already well known from his published letters to his sisters. During his travels he provided himself with a singular variety of costumes. In one of his letters to Mr. Austen, while protesting that he was travelling with the greatest economy, he says that his only serious expense was caused by the many costly dresses that he considered it necessary to furnish himself with.

HIS PASSION FOR THE TURKS.

Of Athens he wrote little; but, in a letter to Mrs. Austen, he remarked that of all he had visited in his travels "nothing had more completely realized all that he had imagined and all that he could have wished. Independent of associations, it is the most beautiful assemblage of all that is interesting in art and nature." All his enthusiasm was, however, reserved for Constantinople. When, in December, he saw the cupolas and minarets of Stamboul rising before him at sunset, he felt "an excitement which he thought dead. In short, all here is very much like life in a pantomime or Eastern tale of enchantment, which I think very high praise." He appears, too, to have taken a liking for the Turks. He wrote in his imaginative style to Edward Bulwer:—

"I confess to you that my Turkish prejudices are very much confirmed by my residence in Turkey. The life of this people greatly accords with my taste. To repose on voluptuous divans, and smoke superb pipes; daily to indulge in the luxuries of a bath which requires half a dozen attendants for its perfection; to court the air in a carved caique, by shores which are a perpetual scene; and to find no exertion greater than a canter on a barb; this is, I think, a far more sensible life than the bustle of clubs, all the boring of drawing-rooms, and all the coarse vulgarity of our political controversies."

He found that "the habits of this calm and luxurious people entirely agreed with his own preconceived opinions of propriety and enjoyment." He even took to wearing a turban, as well as to smoking a six-feet-long pipe and squatting on a divan. He was greatly gratified by a certain Mehemet Pasha telling him that he could not be an Englishman, but rather one of an Eastern race, because he walked so slowly. The measured gravity of his gait will be remembered by those who knew him in after years.

DISRAELI MEETS HIS FUTURE WIFE.

The reputation which he had acquired by "Vivian Grey," his travels in countries at that time rarely visited by Englishmen, and his calculated eccentricities of dress and manner, now opened the doors of society to him. At a soirée given by Edward Bulwer he was introduced "by particular desire" to Mrs. Wyndham Lewis, his future wife, whom he describes in the same letter as "a pretty little woman; a flirt and a rattle, gifted with a volubility which he thought unequalled, and of which he could convey no idea." She told him "that she liked silent and melancholy men," a character that he could have had little difficulty in assuming to please the fair lady.

AS A POET.

Another very interesting glimpse of the man is given in connection with his "Revolutionary Epic":—

"He read the first canto from the MS. to a few friends assembled at Mrs. Austen's. To them he thus explained its object:—'All great works that have formed an epoch in the history of the human intellect have been an embodification of the spirit of the age. An heroic age produced in the "Iliad" an heroic poem; the foundation of the Empire of the Cæsars produced in the "Æneid" a political poem; the Reformation and its consequences produced in the "Paradise Lost" a religious poem. Since the revolt of America a new principle has been at work in the world, to which I trace all that occurs. This is the Revolutionary principle; and this is what I wish to embody in the "Revolutionary Epic;" and I imagine the Genius of Feudalism and the Genius of Federation appearing before the Almighty Throne and pleading their respective and antagonistic causes.'"

Standing with his back to the fire, he proceeded in his usual grandiloquent style and with his usual solemn gesture to ask why, as the heroic age had produced its Homer, the Augustan era its Virgil, the Renaissance its Dante, the Reformation its Milton, should not the Revolutionary epoch, in which we live, produce its representative poet? The scene was one not to be forgotten by those who witnessed it. There was something irresistibly comic in the young man dressed in the fantastic, coxcombical costume that he then affected—velvet coat of an original cut thrown wide open, and ruffles to its sleeves, shirt collars turned down in Byronic fashion, an elaborately embroidered waistcoat whence issued voluminous folds of frill, and shoes adorned with red rosettes—his black hair pomatumed and elaborately curled, and his person redolent with perfume—announcing himself as the Homer or Dante of the age! After he had left the room a gentleman who excelled as a mimic, assuming the attitude and voice of the poet, declaimed an impromptu burlesque of the opening lines, which caused infinite merriment to those present.

AS A FINANCIER.

We may conclude our survey of this very interesting article—which will give the January *Quarterly* a great vogue—by the following reference to Disraeli's money matters:—It has been stated, we know not on what authority, that his financial embarrassments were at one time so considerable that he was ready to accept a diplomatic appointment, but refused a consul-generalship in South America which Sir Robert Peel had offered him. In the winter of 1835 he was concerned in some mysterious financial operation which he considered of great political importance. "Circumstances," he wrote to Mr. Austen, "have placed me behind the curtain of financial politics." What the precise nature of this operation was we have been unable to ascertain. It was seemingly connected with the issue of a loan for a foreign Power in Holland, as he informed Mr. Austen that he was in frequent secret communication with the Secretary of the Dutch Legation in London, and twice went over to the Hague in connection with the affair. He was in expectation of making a considerable sum of money by it, at a moment when he was in serious monetary straits; but it came to nothing, and we merely mention the circumstance as it affords curious evidence that, in his description of Sidonia, in "Coningsby," he had himself in view in that great and all-knowing politician and financier, or that in Sidonia he sketched a character to which it was his ambition to attain. The purchase by him in after years, when Prime Minister, of the Suez Canal shares, affords a striking instance of his conception of "financial politics."

ROBERT ELSMERE'S "CATHERINE."

In the December number of the *Centennial Magazine*, which has just reached us from Sydney, we extract the following tribute to Mrs. Ward's heroine:—

On her rock of Destiny, chained Prometheus-like,
By links of strong heredity, she sat, nor saw
The rising tide about her feet.
Her eyes upturned, sent back ethereal blue
The fleecy clouds, and all things beautiful.

And as of old, clothed in spotless white,
Christ's Hero-Martyrs went to meet their doom,
So she, clothed with the love of God.

Hold to thy love of Him, thou trustful one—
Thou'lt need it; hold it to the last.
Those whispering waves about thy feet
Shall swell to billows, and billows into storms;
Then, urged to fury by relentless Law
Shall drown all love but His.

Is it *cold* about thy feet? Be brave!
Nor let yon surpliced crowd that babble
Round their steepled toys (sand made
As sport for waves) shake thy pure heart's resolve.
For hark! set to the sighing winds there comes
From out the gloom thy Master's voice.
Firm that step as when o'er restless Galilee
The God-man's mission led—
"For sorrow's sake I'll stay with thee
As others stayed near Calvary."

S. MANNINGTON CAFFYN.

TO-DAY'S NEW BOOKS.

(Publishers would greatly oblige by stating the prices of books. Any notices under this head do no preclude further review, should such seem to be necessary.)

GROVE, W. "A Mexican Mystery." (Digby and Long.)
[A shilling novelette.]

MACAULAY, JAMES A. M., M.D. "Speeches and Addresses of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, 1863-1888." (John Murray.)
[An introduction gives some account of the early years of the Prince of Wales, and the Editor recounts the circumstances under which each speech was delivered. Pp. 423, cloth. Etched portrait and index.]

MARTIN, A. PATCHETT. "Australia and the Empire." (Edinburgh: David Douglas.)
[Essays on Australian matters from an anti-Federation and anti-Home Rule standpoint. Pp. 285, cloth. Price 7*s.* 6*d.*]

"THOM'S Official Directory for 1889." (Dublin: Alex. Thom and Co.)
[So well known a year-book as "Thom," which is now forty-six years old, needs no description. It is as indispensable to the Irish business man as the London Directory to Londoners. Pp. 1,914, cloth. Price 21*s.*]

WADDINGTON, SAMUEL (Editor). "The Sonnets of Europe." (Walter Scott.)
[Substantially a volume of "The Canterbury Poets" in better dress. Translations (by many hands) from Italian, French, German, Spanish, Portuguese, and other sonnets, arranged with notes. Pp. 278, cloth, gilt top. Price 5*s.*

YOUNGHUSBAND, FRANCES. "The Story of Genesis." (Longmans, Green, and Co.)
[A paraphrase in simple language. The *raison d'être* of such a book is not very evident. Surely the English of the Old Testament is simple enough! Pp. 154, cloth. Price 2*s.* 6*d.*]

A NOVEL POSTAL CAR.

There has lately been completed at the Louisville, New Albany and Chicago shops in New Albany, says *The Railway World*, a novel postal car, which will be put into service in a few days. It is built of plates of steel lined with asbestos, and is trussed the entire length of the car. The floors are of steel, as are the platforms and steps, and there is no wood whatever about the car except in the trucks. It is said to be 20 per cent. lighter than ordinary cars, and to be perfectly fire-proof.

IMPROVEMENTS IN CYCLES.

Our attention has been called, in view of the forthcoming Stanley Show, at the Crystal Palace, to a remarkably light and at the same time strong "roadster" which has been built by Mr. W. Goulden, of Clapton. It is only 25 lb. in weight, and is yet made for carrying a heavy rider of 12 stone. More than this, its inventor claims to have completely got rid of that bane of the wheelman vibration and concussion, by means of a novel arrangement of the seat and steering gear. The saddle is supported on a piston rod encircled by a long coil spring working in the tube which forms the seat pillar of the machine. By means of stuffing boxes the rod has free and smooth play through lubricated packing, so that when rough roads are encountered there is an easy up and down movement, and none of that jolting which arises from metallic contact between the rider and the machine. In the front fork there is a similar piston arrangement, which enables the guiding wheel to rise easily over any obstacle. The contact between the handle-bar and the guiding wheel, which is steered by short reins, is severed, and, as a consequence, the vibration is not communicated to the arms of the rider. Gentlemen who have put the machine to severe practical tests speak in the highest terms of it, both on the score of safety and easy riding. It has been thought that nothing new in cycles could now be devised, but Mr. Goulden has admittedly made a new departure. To those who are not familiar with the industry it will be astonishing to learn that at least a million machines are turned out every year. Hitherto they have had a short life, and Mr. Goulden by his invention claims to have considerably extended it. This country has a practical monopoly of the manufacture, and a large trade is done with America, the continent, and the colonies.

A NOVELTY IN CANALS.

If we are to revert to canals to any extent for our inland carrying trade, as there appears to be a strong disposition to do, it will be well to adopt any improvements in their construction and working that inventive genius can devise. Mr. Arthur Pickard, of Pickard Brothers, of Leeds, is exhibiting at 114, Newgate-street, City, a model of a new form of canal, which is to dispense with horse or other haulage. He proposes to do artificially what is done naturally on the Thames or other tidal rivers, and create a current which shall carry the barges along. The canal is divided longitudinally in two equal parts by means of a wall of wood or masonry, and a screw in the form of a ship's propeller is placed in an opening in this wall at one end. The screw is driven by steam, and a current is in consequence created in two directions; the water flowing down one side of the wall and passing through an opening at the other end returns on the opposite side. The barges or boats—which are specially designed, are square shaped, and of the width of the canal—are carried along with the current to any desired point or to the end of the level, and they are then transferred to the next section and propelled in the same way. The model boats are built with wheels, pretty much in the style of a covered railway waggon, the idea being to run them on *terra firma*, so that they may be loaded up—at a colliery, for instance—and then transferred to the water. In that case they could be passed from one level of the canal to another, either by a crane or a railway. It is computed that a ten-horse power engine could create a current flowing at the rate of four to five miles per hour, which would be double the present speed on our canals. While the invention can be applied to existing canals, Mr. Pickard contemplates the erection of what he terms tank canals, which would be placed on the surface of the ground when level, or would be carried on lattice-girder bridges when valleys had to be crossed. The invention would dispense with our canal population, as the boats would be passed along without any need for labour beyond what would be necessary to attend to the propellers and the locks. Practical men who have looked at the model are said to have been much struck with it.

CORRESPONDENCE.

STARVING CHILDREN.

To the EDITOR *of the* PALL MALL GAZETTE.

DEAR SIR,—I have to thank you for inserting my letter on Monday last, and your readers for their generous help. Up to noon, January 16, I had received:—A Friend, £10; J. Powell, K. ff., Bellairs, Dogless, T. Thompson, £5 each; T. Nicholls, Mrs. J. Seligman, £3 3*s.* each; Mrs. Seligman, M. Miller, £2 2*s.* each; Mrs. Fowler, W. A. Hammond, M. H. (Westminster), £2 each; Dr. F. J. Furnivall, Mrs. Jacques Mendl, £1 1*s.* each; H. Thomas, G. E. Chapman, F. Young, F. Syer, An Australian, C. F. Aird, Hodgson, Pratt, Mrs. Wallace Dunlop, C. A. Walker, Jane Turner, Dr. Parker, M. Schneider and Son, K. W. (Westgate), £1 each; F. Sheppard, Major-General Battersby, H. A. Blaydes, F. Renard, J. F. K., M. Taylor, Four Sympathisers, G. Anderson, Mrs. S., 10*s.* each; H. S. Brandrette, J. S. Walker, 7*s.* 6*d.* each; Mrs. and the Misses Clarke, 6*s.*; Mrs. Clarke, Mrs. Temple, Mrs. R., Mrs. Walsh, T. W. B., F. Castles, E. J. B., E. B. Rodenhurst, 5*s.* each; Käthchen, 4*s.* 6*d.*; G. Cly, T. H. Drew, A. A. A., Mrs. Ford, M., 2*s.* 6*d.* each; E. F. Allen, M., 2*s.* each; Olive, Pollie, 1*s.* each; anonymously, sums amounting to £1 15*s.* 6*d.*

These sums amount to more than is required to supply the dinners mentioned in my former letter, so I shall be able to help some of the other schools placed in my charge. There are, alas! so many little gaping mouths that ten times the sum would not feed all the children who daily suffer hunger while they strive to learn.

ANNIE BESANT,
Senior Member Tower Hamlets, L.S.B.

34, *Bouverie-street, Fleet-street, E.C.*,
January 16.

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This delicious Liqueur, which has lately come so much into public favour on account of its wonderful properties of aiding Digestion and preventing Dyspepsia, can now be had of all the principal Wine and Spirit Merchants throughout the Kingdom and at a considerably less price than formerly.—Sole Consignee: W. DOYLE, 35, CRUTCHED-FRIARS, LONDON, E.C.

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WARRINGTON LODGE, Warwick-road, Maida-vale, W.—PRIVATE HOSPITAL for LADIES. For terms, &c., write to the Secretary and Superintendent MRS. MCDONALD.

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Henry William Taylor, Esq., London, Johannesberg and Barberton (late Director Sheba Reef Gold Mining Company (Limited), will join the Board on completion of the purchase:

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E. J. Hancock, Esq., Managing Director "Wemmer Co.," Witwatersrand.
Charles Scott, Esq., Johannesburg.

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CONSULTING ENGINEER.

Edward Jones, Esq., M. and C.E. (late of the De Beers Mine, Kimberley), of Johannesburg, and 4, Tokenhouse-yard, E.C.

AUDITORS.—Messrs. Cooper Brothers and Co., 14 George-street, Mansion House, E.C.

SECRETARY AND OFFICES (*pro tem.*).—Mr. C. H. Weatherley, 24, George-st., Mansion House, E.C.

PROSPECTUS.

The Company has been formed to acquire and develop the auriferous reefs of "Banket," or conglomerate known as the "Wolverand Mynpacht," situate at Klerksdorp, in the Transvaal, and which Mr. Edward Jones believes are identical in character with those of the Witwatersrand formation, and to be a continuation thereof to the south-west (*vide* his report and letter enclosed with Prospectus).

Klerksdorp is now the centre of the large mining area known as the Southern Extension of Witwatersrand. The area to be acquired by the Company consists of 102 claims (8,163,271 square feet), selected by experienced miners as the best in the Mynpacht.

The owners and the Vendor Company have incurred considerable outlay in opening up and prospecting the reefs, and, to show their faith in the value of the property and avoid loss of time, the vendor Company have ordered, at their own risk, the plant and machinery estimated to crush sixty tons of ore a day. This is now in course of completion by Messrs. Davey, Paxman, and Co., of Colchester, and will be shipped next month. Crushings may be therefore expected early, and returns of gold within six to nine months from allotment.

From the direction and dip of the numerous reefs traversing the property, it is suggested by the consulting engineer that it might be conveniently divided into three distinct mining setts, two of which may be sold to subsidiary companies, whereby a large proportion of the capital of this Company may be recouped; whilst that portion retained would leave the Company in possession of a sufficiently large area to carry on successful mining operations.

Exhaustive reports have been made on the property by Messrs. Jones and Butler, C.E. and M.E., and Mr. Maitland Grant, A.M.I.C.E., of Johannesburg. These are printed in full and will be found enclosed with the Prospectus, and attention is invited to the extracts from some of the reports, which are quoted in the Prospectus, from which it will be seen that these gentlemen concur in thinking the property a very valuable one:—

Messrs. Jones and Butler conclude their report as follows:—

"In the course of our professional work we have visited a great many mines in the Witwatersrand district, and we can confidently state that this is one of the best we have so far inspected. We have, therefore, no hesitation in recommending it as a very valuable property."

Mr. Grant states in his report that "in a cutting at the west end of the second row of claims he found a mass of reefs and leaders 120 ft. wide," and concludes by these words: "As regards gold bearing reefs, this property is the best I have yet seen in the Potchefstroom district, and second in value to only one or two of the richest properties in the Witwatersrand."

Mr. J. Holleman, the Government assayer of Potchefstroom, certifies that from eight samples taken impartially from the reefs he obtained the following results:—

	Oz.	Dwt.	Grs.	
From two at the rate of....	8	19	18	per ton.
From two others ,, ...	1	4	21	,,
From two others ,, ...	2	13	15	,,
And two others ,, ...	7	8	8	,,
Average of eight assays ..	5	1	15	,,

He adds—"The gold extracted from the samples was nearly all very coarse, free from all chemical impurities, not coated at all, and remarkably easy to amalgamate."

The well-known richness of the Witwatersrand reefs and the recent wonderful returns of gold from them justify the Directors in expressing their conviction that the Wolverand property should yield satisfactory results.

The results of working and crushings on the Nourgedacht, a neighbouring property recently developed, show, by published reports, milling returns of 1½ oz. to the ton.

Mr. Jones states that excellent coal exists in the neighbourhood, and an unlimited supply can be procured at about 20*s.* per ton. Important companies have been recently formed to work the valuable coal deposits of the district.

The property is remarkable for the number and richness of its reefs, and, as will be seen on reference to Mr. Holleman's report, the gold is all in the free milling state, and easily extracted.

The property is held under the usual and ordinary conditions imposed by the mining laws of the Transvaal on Mynpachts.

The vendor Company is the promoter, and has fixed the purchase price of the property at £200,000, payable as to £30,000 in cash, as to £83,000 in fully paid shares of the Company, and as to the balance, £87,000 in cash or shares, or partly in cash and partly in shares, at the option of the directors, thus leaving a working capital of £50,000.

The directors have secured the valuable services of Mr. Edward Jones, C. and M.E. (late of the De Beers Mine, Kimberley), as their consulting engineer.

Mr. Jones, accompanied by a competent manager, will proceed to the mines in time to superintend the erection of the machinery and start the crushings, and at the same time direct the mining operations being carried out on the reefs. His long residence and wide experience of mining in South Africa inspire the directors with the utmost confidence in his direction of the Company's operations in that country. The local management will be conducted by able and experienced men, practically conversant with mining operations in the Transvaal, as is evidenced by their success in the "Moss Rose" and "Wemmers" mines.

The Vendor Company will provide all the preliminary expenses of the promotion and the issue of the capital, and they have reserved to themselves the right to enter into, and state they have entered into, arrangements with third parties for this purpose, expressed in contracts dated respectively the 7th January, 1889, which do not affect the Company, and to which it is not a party. As these agreements may technically be contracts within the meaning of Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867, applicants for shares shall be deemed to have had notice thereof respectively, and to waive any further compliance with the provisions of such section.

The following contracts have been entered into (1) dated 12th day of July, 1888, and (2) dated 13th December, 1888, and both made between Charles Scott, Reuben Ernest Cross, John Stroyan, Robert Cornick Stroyan, Frederick Alexander English, Donald Fraser, and James Lister Bilbrough, of the one part and the Caisse des Mines, of the other part, and (3) dated 15th January, 1889, between the Caisse des Mines of the one part, and the Company of the other part. These contracts can be inspected at the temporary offices of the Company. Prospectuses and Forms of Application can be obtained of the Bankers, or at the temporary offices of the Company, where also originals of the copies of the reports herewith, plan, and gold assays can be inspected.

Applications for shares should be accompanied by a deposit of 2*s.* 6*d.* per share. In cases where no allotment is made the deposit will be returned in full, and when a less amount is allotted than applied for the balance of the application money will be applied to the amount due upon allotment.

16th January, 1889.

THE UNION MORTGAGE BANKING AND TRUST COMPANY (LIMITED).—NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the SHARE LISTS of the above Company will CLOSE, both for Town and Country, on FRIDAY, the 18th inst., at Twelve o'clock noon, on which day the Board will proceed to allotment.

GEORGE H. BULLOCK, Secretary,
Dashwood House, 9, New Broad-street, E.C.

Established 1868

THE LIBERATOR BUILDING SOCIETY,
20, BUDGE-ROW, CANNON-STREET, LONDON, E.C.
FIVE PER CENT. PAID ON SHARES (£30 each), and on deposits of £500 and upwards made for fixed terms.
DEPOSITS of £5 and upwards at ONE MONTH'S NOTICE, FOUR PER CENT.
For particulars apply to the Secretary,
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57, CHARING CROSS, S.W.

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BECAUSE Extract of Meat contains NO nutritive elements, but is merely a stimulant.
BECAUSE Bouillon Fleet, being a judicious combination of Kemmerich's Extract of Beef and Peptone of Beef, is not only stimulating, but also nutritive.
BECAUSE the nutritive value of all articles of food depends chiefly upon Peptone (Albuminoids), and according to analysis of Dr. Clark, Public Analyst of Glasgow—
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It quickly arouses great Bodily, Nerve, Mental, and Digestive Strength, promotes Appetite, securing Health, Strength, and Energy.
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ARE universally admitted to be worth a Guinea a Box for Bilious and Nervous Disorders, such as Wind and Pain in the Stomach, Sick Headache, Giddiness, Fulness and Swelling after Meals, Dizziness and Drowsiness, Cold Chills, Flushings of Heat, Loss of Appetite, Shortness of Breath, Costiveness, Scurvy and Blotches on the Skin, Disturbed Sleep, Frightful Dreams, and all Nervous and Trembling Sensations, &c. The first dose will give relief in twenty minutes. Every sufferer is earnestly invited to try one Box of these Pills, and they will be acknowledged to be

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